PEDORO TORIUMI

Black Panther and Sweet 16

3

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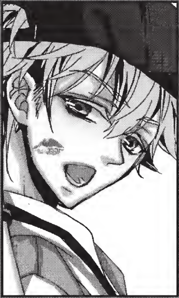
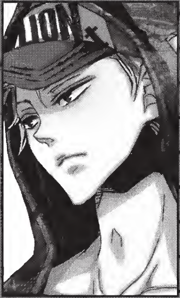
3

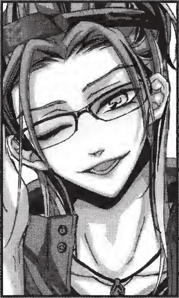
The Dictator Brigade



SENA KAGURAZAKA
CALM, BUT OCCASIONALLY SAYS SOMETHING DITZY!



KUROGANE GOJO
LOOKS SCARY, BUT ACTUALLY KIND.

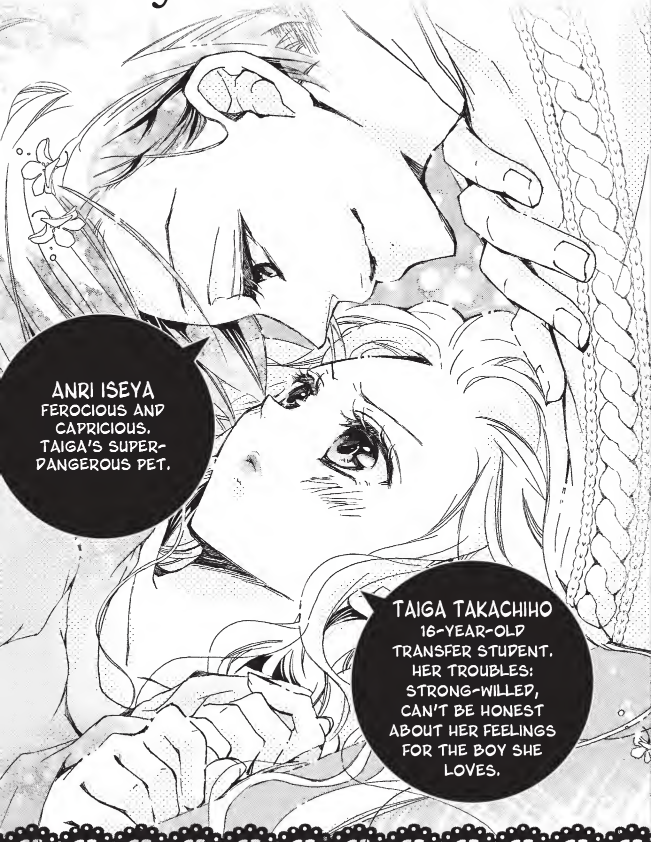


MIKIHITO OHTORI
CLEVER, BUT EXPRESSES HIS EMOTIONS STRAIGHT.

TAIGA TAKACHIHO, WHO HAS A COMPLEX OVER HER STRONG-WILLED PERSONALITY, IS 16. SHE FEEDS THE WILD, UNTAMABLE ANRI AND MAKES HIM HER PET! BUT HE KEEPS TOYING WITH POOR TAIGA...
ANRI'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND, KUROGANE, CASUALLY HELPS HER CARRY THINGS, DRAPES HIS COAT OVER HER, ETC... HE'S AWKWARD, BUT KIND, AND TAIGA FALLS IN LOVE. SHE ASKED HIM OUT, BUT WAS REJECTED! AS THE WOUNDED TAIGA SLEEPS, ANRI GENTLY KISSES HER AND SNUGGLES UP TO HER...BUT HE ALSO SAYS HE'LL TEACH HER HOW TO "CUDDLE" WITH HER PET...

HE'S BLUNT, BUT KIND AND GENTLEMANLY TOO!! THIS NEW SIDE OF KUROGANE SETS TAIGA'S HEART AFLUTTER!

Story and Characters


ANRI ISEYA
FEROCIOUS AND CAPRICIOUS. TAIGA'S SUPER-DANGEROUS PET.
TAIGA TAKACHIHO
16-YEAR-OLD TRANSFER STUDENT. HER TROUBLES: STRONG-WILLED, CAN'T BE HONEST ABOUT HER FEELINGS FOR THE BOY SHE LOVES.

Contents

TRAP 9

First Taste

5

TRAP 10

Sweet, Painful.

41

TRAP 11

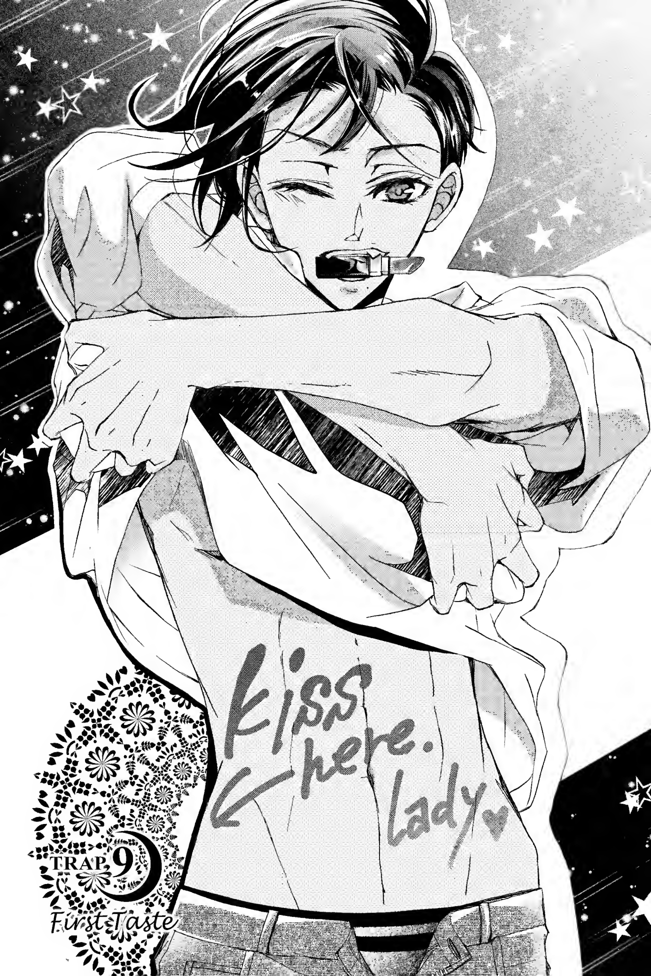
Secrets at the Party

77

TRAP 12

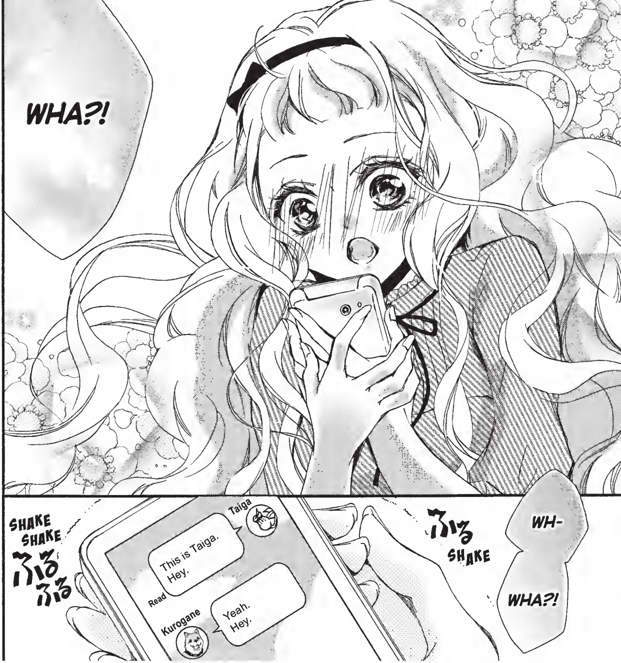
Show Me Everything

115


kiss here. lady

TRAP 9

First Taste


WHA?!
WH-
WHA?!
ふる
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
ふるふる

Taiga
This is Taiga.
Hey.
Read

Kurogane
Yeah.
Hey.

1 GREETINGS

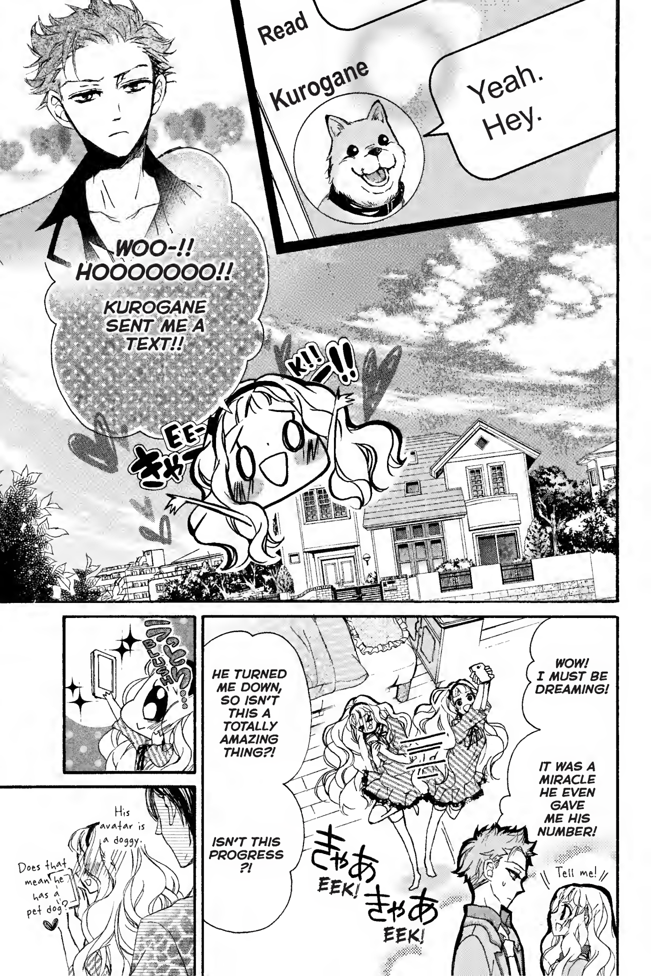
NICE TO MEET YOU! AND/OR HELLO AGAIN!

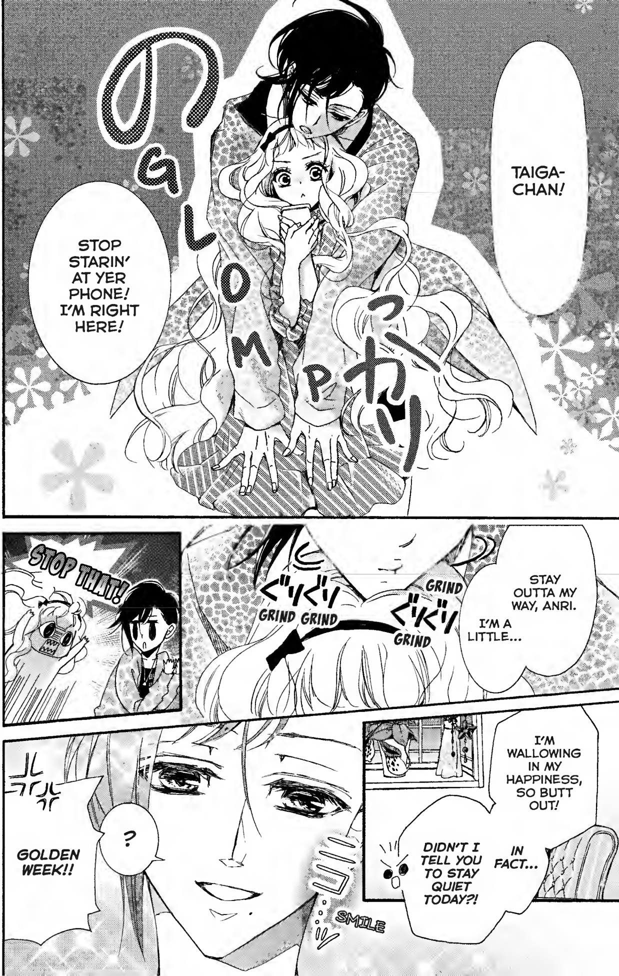
THIS IS **PEDORO TORIUMI!**

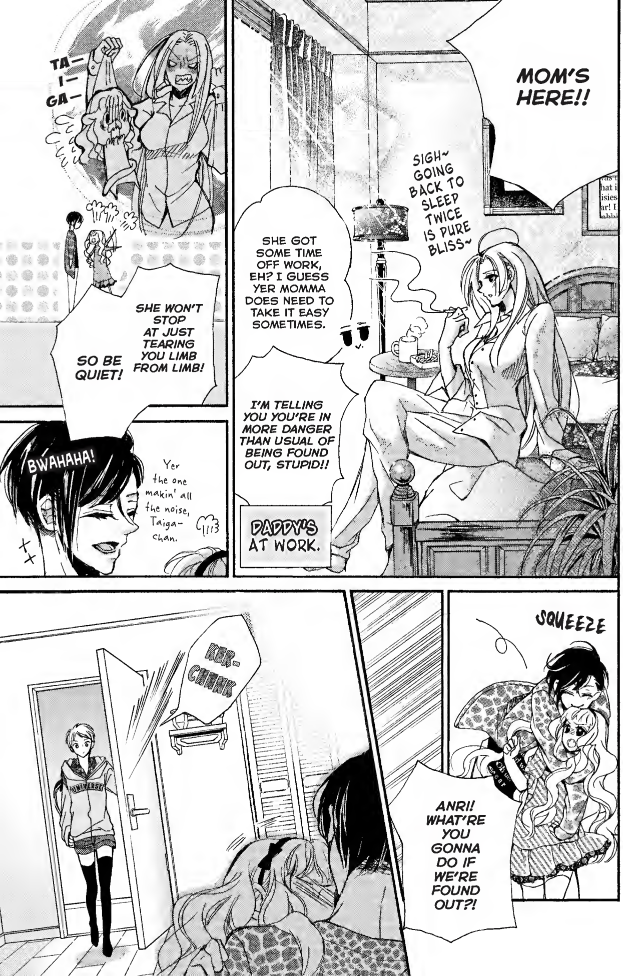
Welcome!
Welcome!

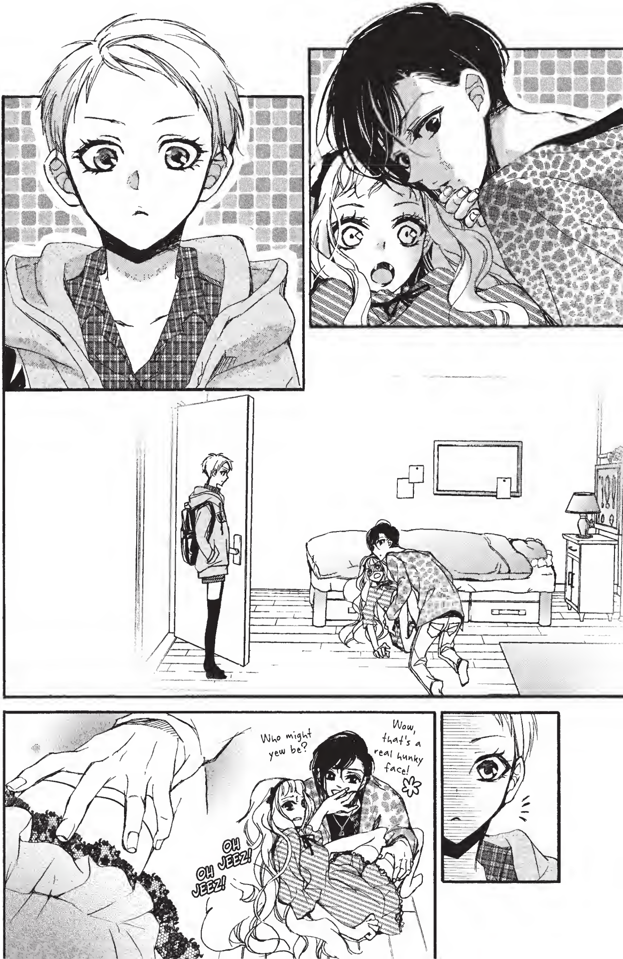
THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING "BLACK PANTHER AND SWEET SIXTEEN"!! WHEN IT COMES TO VOLUME 3, I WAS ABLE TO INCLUDE SOME THINGS I TALKED WITH MY EDITOR ABOUT IN OUR MEETINGS, SAYING THINGS LIKE, "I REALLY WANT TO DRAW THIS. BUT CAN I DO THAT?" SO I HAD A LOT OF FUN WORKING ON IT! I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT EVEN A LITTLE!

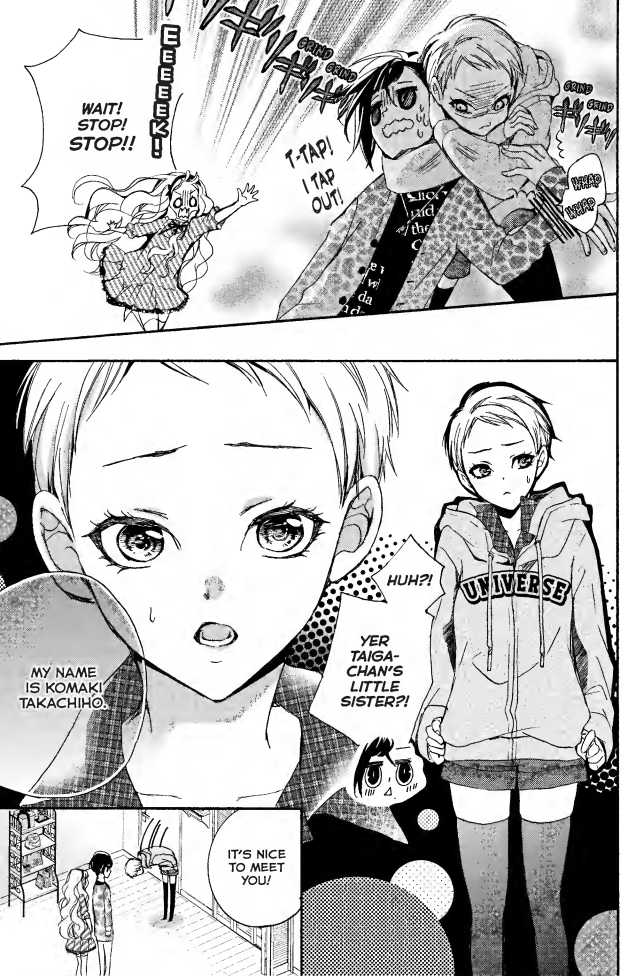
LET'S BEGIN!

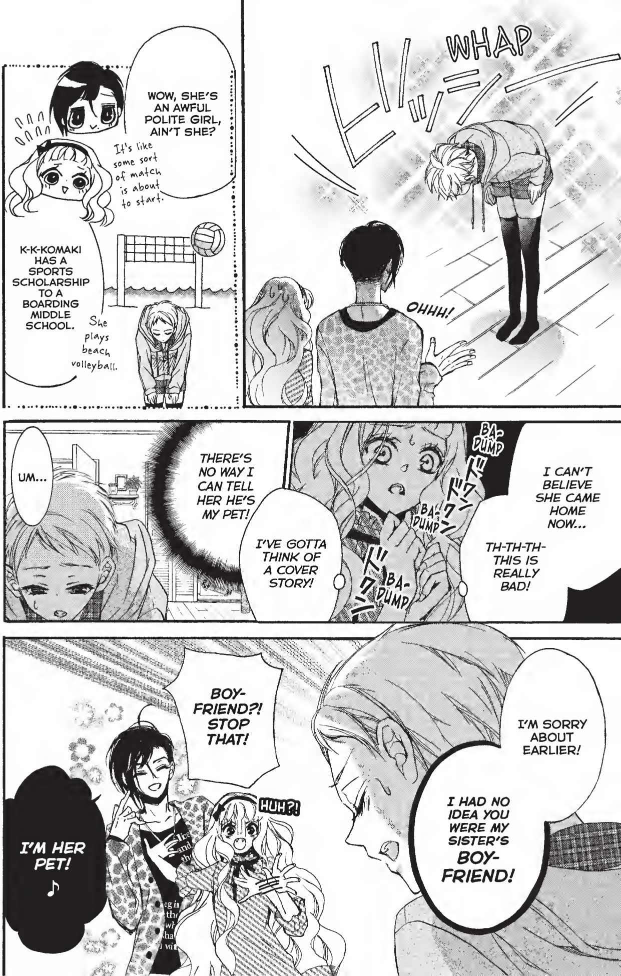

Read
Kurogane
Yeah. Hey.
WOO-!! HOOOOOOO!!
KUROGANE SENT ME A TEXT!!
K!! !!
EE-
きゃ
WOW! I MUST BE DREAMING!
IT WAS A MIRACLE HE EVEN GAVE ME HIS NUMBER!
Tell me!
HE TURNED ME DOWN, SO ISN'T THIS A TOTALLY AMAZING THING?!
ISN'T THIS PROGRESS?!
きゃあ EEK!
きゃあ EEK!
うっとり BLUSH
His avatar is a doggy.
Does that mean he has a pet dog?

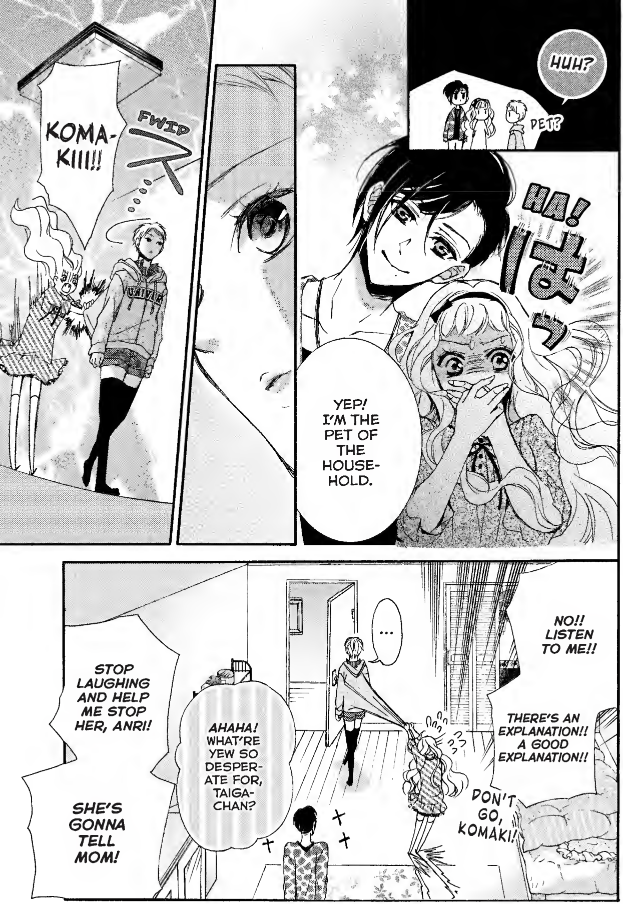

TAIGA-CHAN!
STOP STARIN' AT YER PHONE! I'M RIGHT HERE!
GLOMP
STAY OUTTA MY WAY, ANRI.
I'M A LITTLE...
ぐりぐり
GRIND GRIND
ぐりぐり
GRIND GRIND
STOP THAT!
I'M WALLOWING IN MY HAPPINESS, SO BUTT OUT!
IN FACT...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO STAY QUIET TODAY?!
SMILE
?
GOLDEN WEEK!!

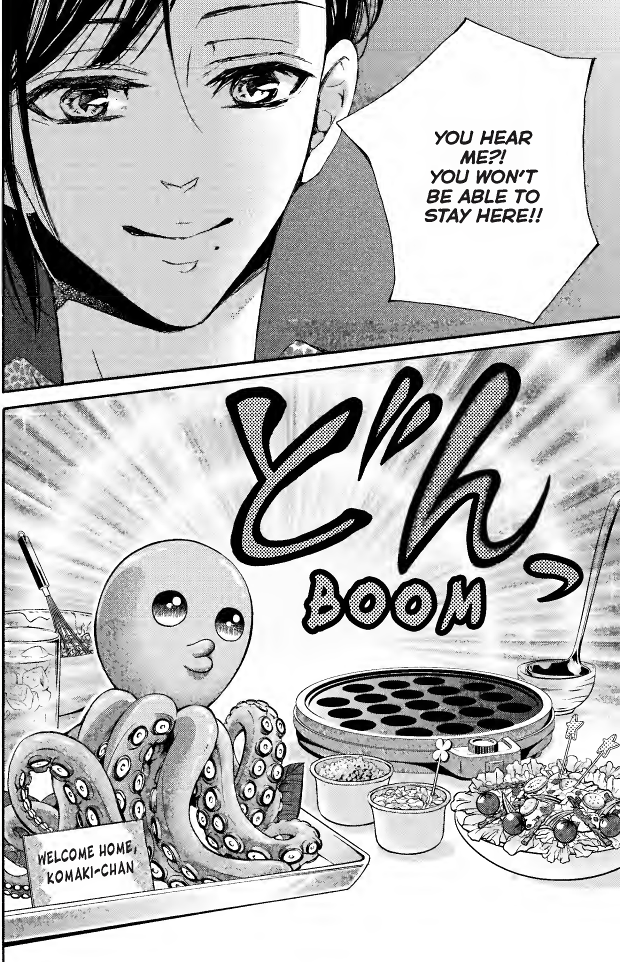

MOM'S HERE!!
SIGH~ GOING BACK TO SLEEP TWICE IS PURE BLISS~
SHE GOT SOME TIME OFF WORK, EH? I GUESS YER MOMMA DOES NEED TO TAKE IT EASY SOMETIMES.
I'M TELLING YOU YOU'RE IN MORE DANGER THAN USUAL OF BEING FOUND OUT, STUPID!!
DADDY'S AT WORK.
TA— I— GA—
SHE WON'T STOP AT JUST TEARING YOU LIMB FROM LIMB!
SO BE QUIET!
BWAHAHA!
Yer the one makin' all the noise, Taiga-chan.
SQUEEZE
ANRI! WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO IF WE'RE FOUND OUT?!
KER-CHNNK
UNIVERSE

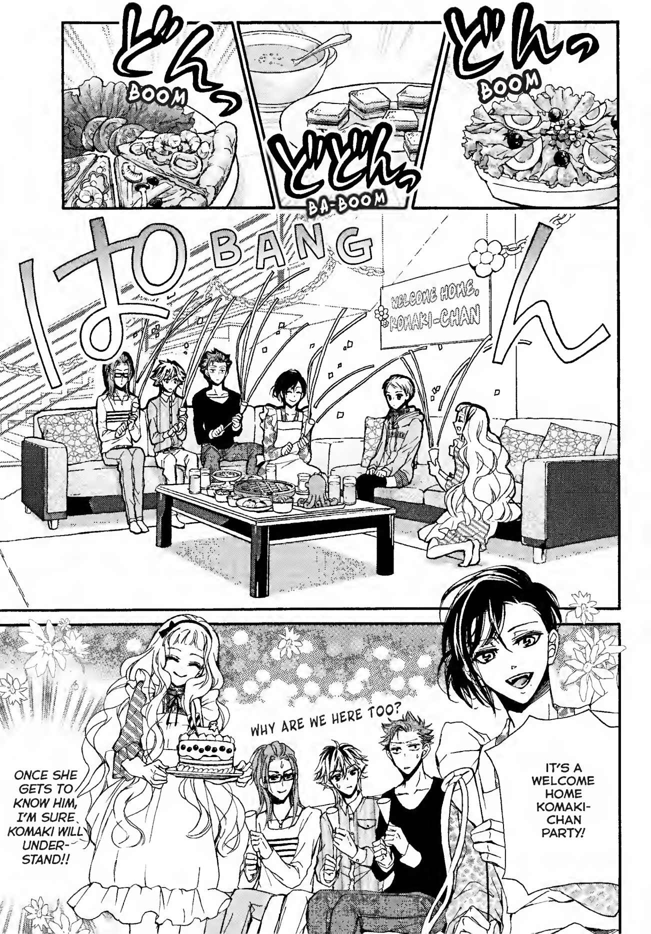

Wow, that's a real hunky face!
Who might yew be?
OH JEEZ!
OH JEEZ!

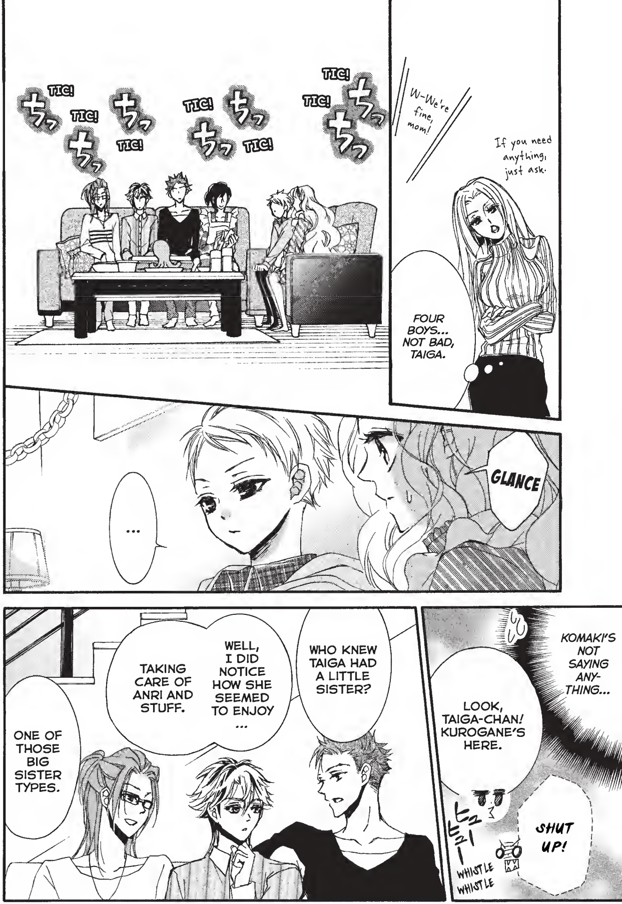

GRIND GRIND
WHAP WHAP
T-TAP! I TAP OUT!
GRIND GRIND
EEEEEEK!
WAIT! STOP! STOP!!
HUH?!
YER TAIGA-CHAN'S LITTLE SISTER?!
UNIVERSE
MY NAME IS KOMAKI TAKACHIHO.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU!


WHAP
OHHH!
WOW, SHE'S AN AWFUL POLITE GIRL, AIN'T SHE?
It's like some sort of match is about to start.
K-K-KOMAKI HAS A SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP TO A BOARDING MIDDLE SCHOOL.
She plays beach volleyball.
BA-DUMP
ドクン
BA-DUMP
ドクン
BA-DUMP
ドクン
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE CAME HOME NOW...
TH-TH-TH-THIS IS REALLY BAD!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TELL HER HE'S MY PET!
I'VE GOTTA THINK OF A COVER STORY!
UM...
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER!
I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE MY SISTER'S BOY-FRIEND!
HUH?!
BOY-FRIEND?! STOP THAT!
I'M HER PET! ♪


HUH?
PET?
HA!
はっ
YEP! I'M THE PET OF THE HOUSEHOLD.
KOMA-KIII!!
FWIP
NO!! LISTEN TO ME!!
THERE'S AN EXPLANATION!! A GOOD EXPLANATION!!
DON'T GO, KOMAKI!
...
AHAHA! WHAT'RE YEW SO DESPERATE FOR, TAIGA-CHAN?
STOP LAUGHING AND HELP ME STOP HER, ANRI!
SHE'S GONNA TELL MOM!

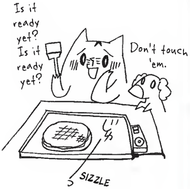

YOU HEAR ME?! YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY HERE!!
どん
BOOM
WELCOME HOME, KOMAKI-CHAN


どんっ
BOOM
どどんっ
BA-BOOM
どんっ
BOOM
ぱ
BANG
ん
WELCOME HOME, KOMAKI-CHAN
IT'S A WELCOME HOME KOMAKI-CHAN PARTY!
WHY ARE WE HERE TOO?
ONCE SHE GETS TO KNOW HIM, I'M SURE KOMAKI WILL UNDERSTAND!!


If you need anything, just ask.
W-We're fine, mom!
FOUR BOYS... NOT BAD, TAIGA.
TIC!
ちっ
TIC!
ちっ
TIC!
ちっ
TIC!
ちっ
TIC!
ちっ
TIC!
ちっ
TIC!
ちっ
TIC!
ちっ
TIC!
GLANCE
...
KOMAKI'S NOT SAYING ANYTHING...
LOOK, TAIGA-CHAN! KUROGANE'S HERE.
SHUT UP!
ヒューヒュー
WHISTLE WHISTLE
WHO KNEW TAIGA HAD A LITTLE SISTER?
WELL, I DID NOTICE HOW SHE SEEMED TO ENJOY ...
TAKING CARE OF ANRI AND STUFF.
ONE OF THOSE BIG SISTER TYPES.

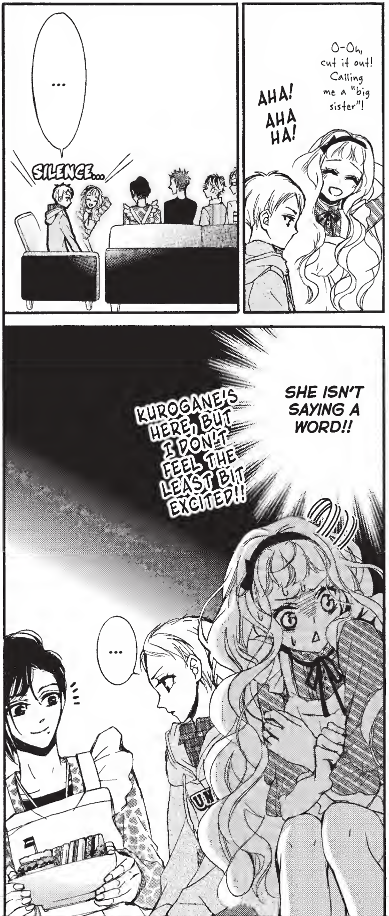
2 ABOUT TAKOYAKI PARTIES

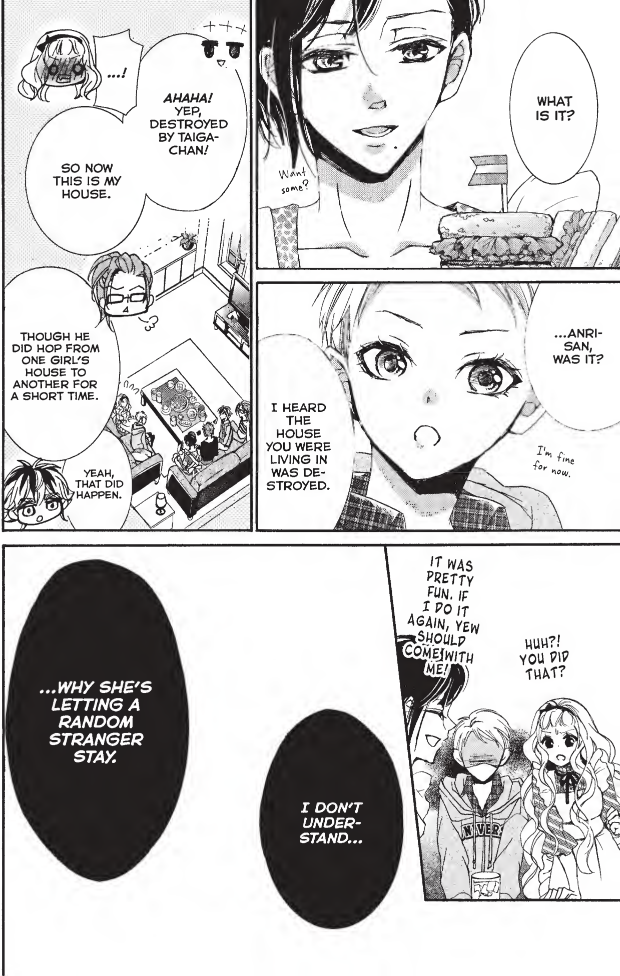
IT'S NOT JUST TAKOYAKI, BUT OKONOMIYAKI TOO. WHILE THEY'RE COOKING, I GET SO EMOTIONAL I CAN HARDLY STAND IT.

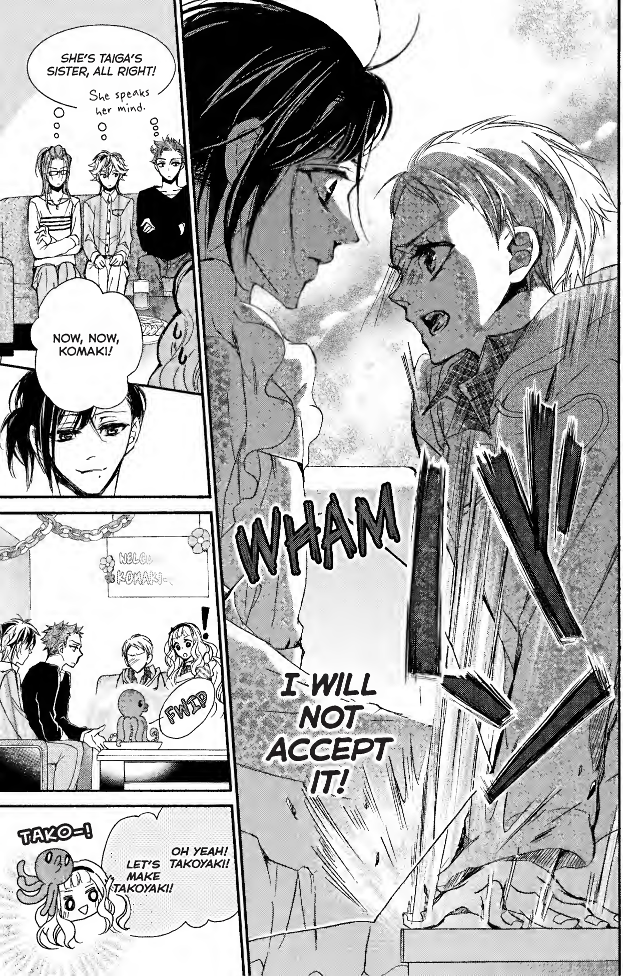

Is it ready yet? Is it ready yet?
Don't touch 'em.
SIZZLE

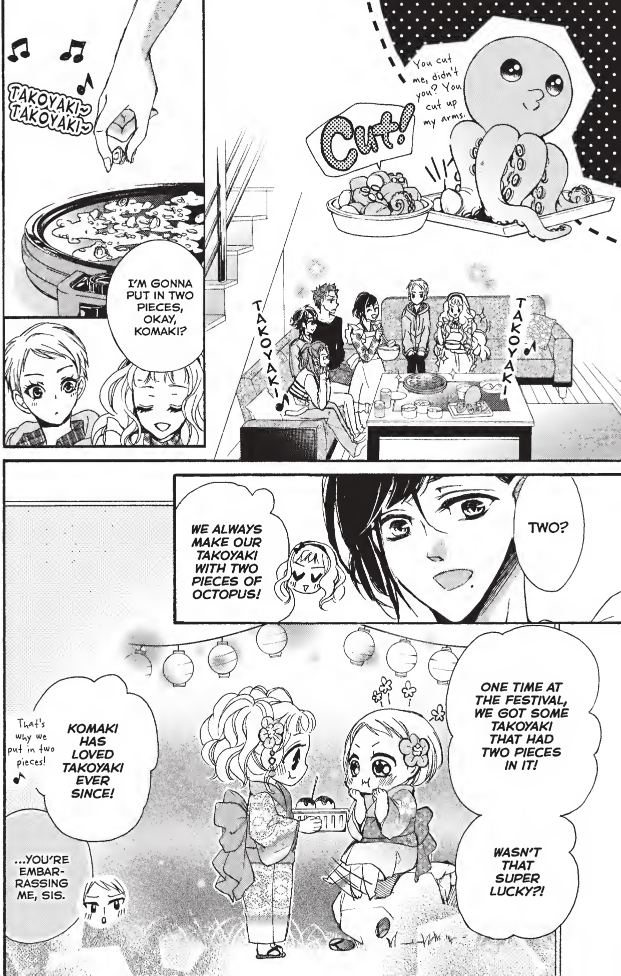
I GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT WHETHER THEY'RE DONE YET, I WANNA FLIP 'EM TO SEE, YOU KNOW? THAT TIME WHEN THEY'RE COOKING IS...!! IS SO TANTALIZING!!

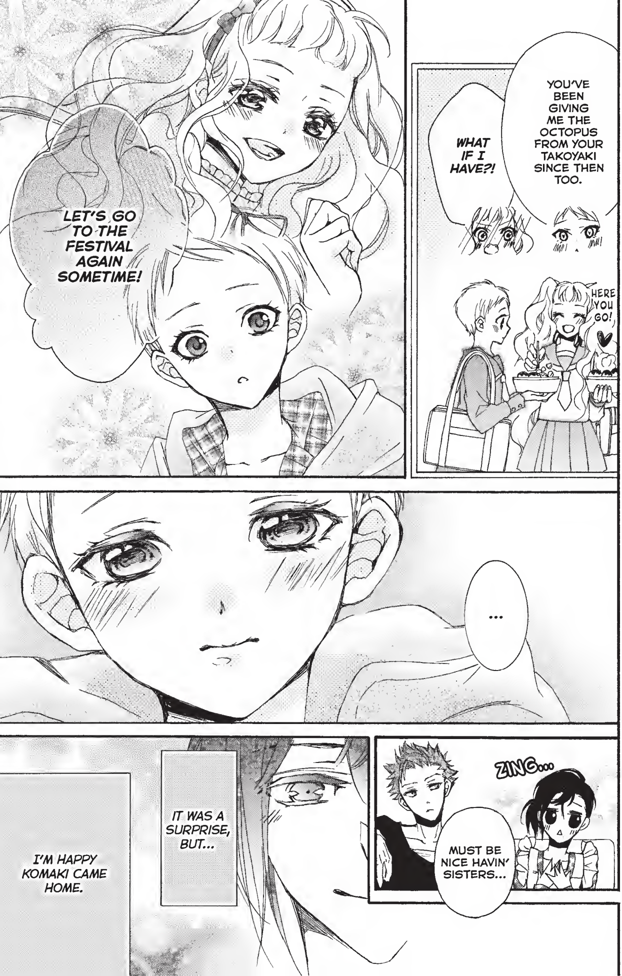
Those fluffy ones you pack full of yams are the ones I love.

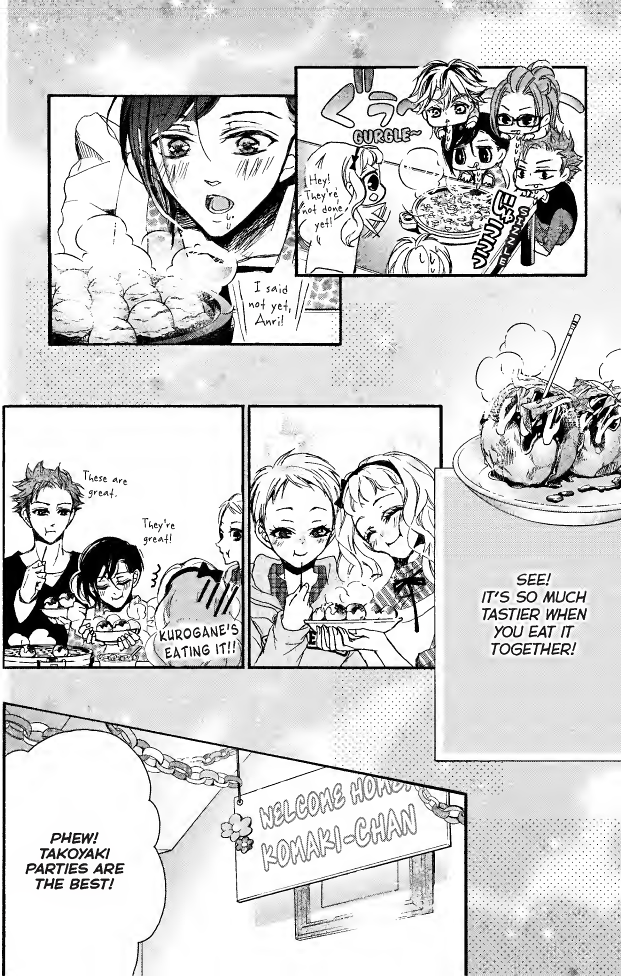

O-Oh, cut it out! Calling me a "big sister"!
AHA! AHA HA!
...
SILENCE...
SHE ISN'T SAYING A WORD!!
KUROGANE'S HERE, BUT I DON'T FEEL THE LEAST BIT EXCITED!!
...

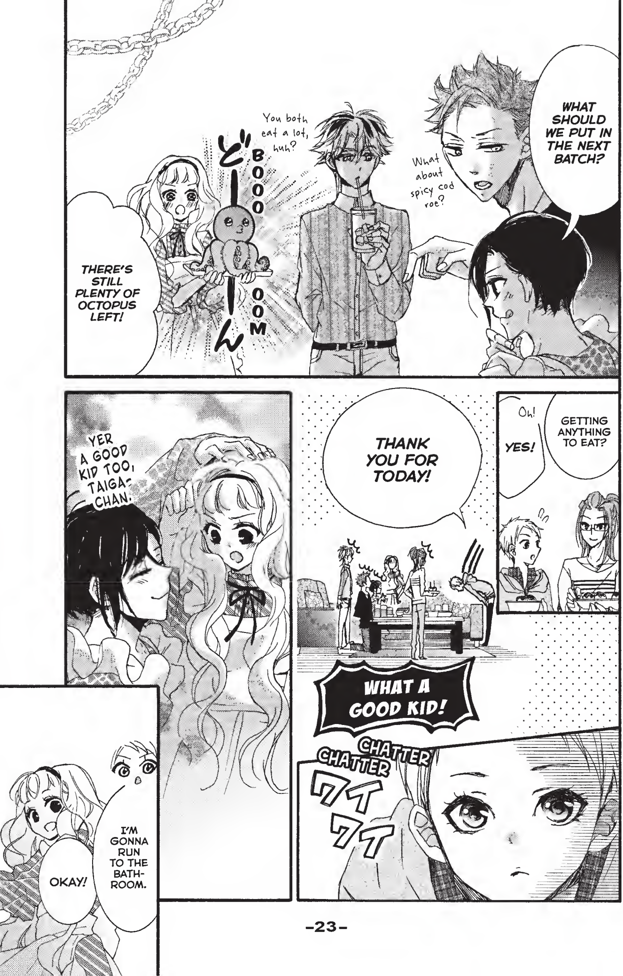

WHAT IS IT?
Want some?
...ANRI-SAN, WAS IT?
I HEARD THE HOUSE YOU WERE LIVING IN WAS DESTROYED.
I'm fine for now.
AHAHA! YEP, DESTROYED BY TAIGA-CHAN!
...!
SO NOW THIS IS MY HOUSE.
THOUGH HE DID HOP FROM ONE GIRL'S HOUSE TO ANOTHER FOR A SHORT TIME.
YEAH, THAT DID HAPPEN.
IT WAS PRETTY FUN. IF I DO IT AGAIN, YEW SHOULD COME WITH ME!
HUH?! YOU DID THAT?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...WHY SHE'S LETTING A RANDOM STRANGER STAY.
NIVERS

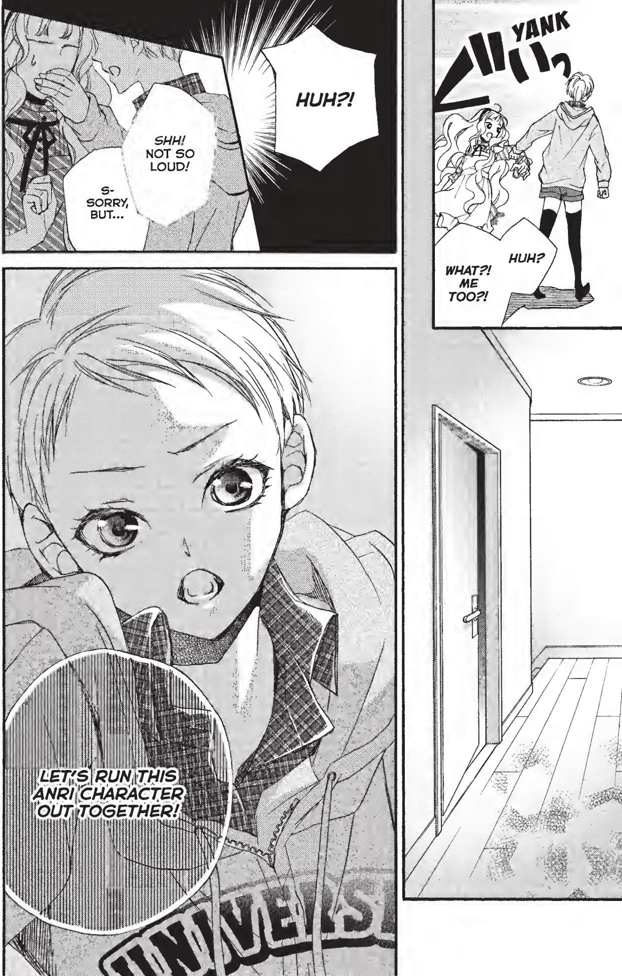

WHAM
I WILL NOT ACCEPT IT!
SHE'S TAIGA'S SISTER, ALL RIGHT!
She speaks her mind.
NOW, NOW, KOMAKI!
WELCO KOMAKI
FWIP
TAKO—!
OH YEAH! TAKOYAKI!
LET'S MAKE TAKOYAKI!

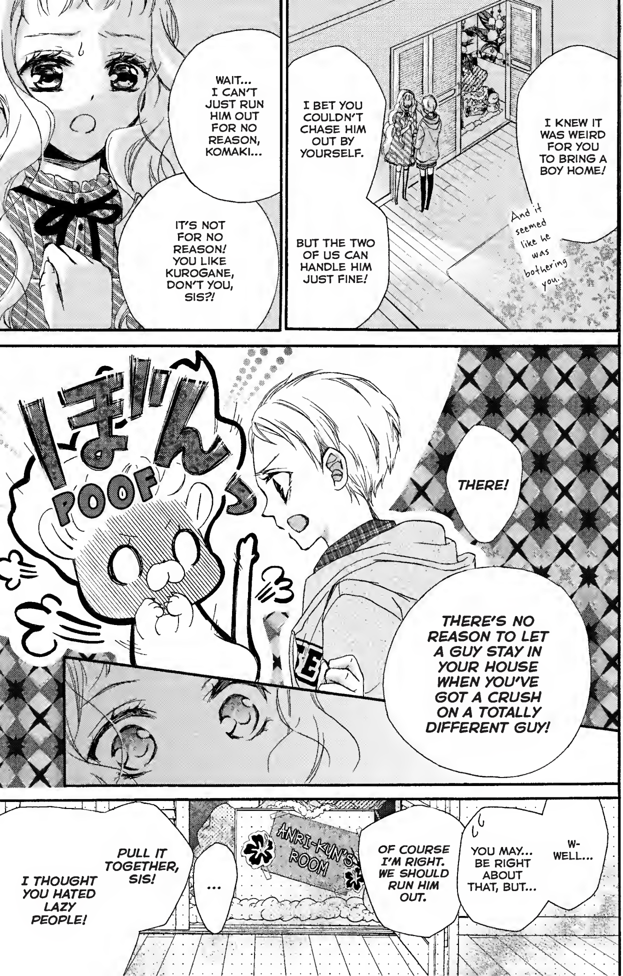

Cut!
You cut me, didn't you? You cut up my arms.
TAKOYAKI~ TAKOYAKI~
TAKOYAKI
TAKOYAKI
I'M GONNA PUT IN TWO PIECES, OKAY, KOMAKI?
TWO?
WE ALWAYS MAKE OUR TAKOYAKI WITH TWO PIECES OF OCTOPUS!
ONE TIME AT THE FESTIVAL, WE GOT SOME TAKOYAKI THAT HAD TWO PIECES IN IT!
WASN'T THAT SUPER LUCKY?!
KOMAKI HAS LOVED TAKOYAKI EVER SINCE!
That's why we put in two pieces!
...YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME, SIS.

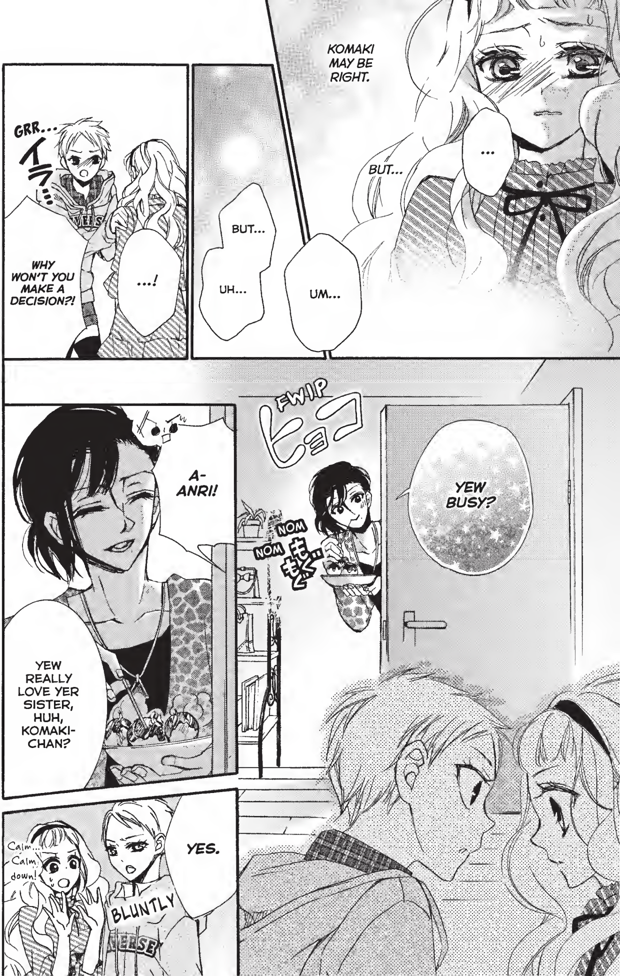

YOU'VE BEEN GIVING ME THE OCTOPUS FROM YOUR TAKOYAKI SINCE THEN TOO.
WHAT IF I HAVE?!
HERE YOU GO!
LET'S GO TO THE FESTIVAL AGAIN SOMETIME!
...
ZING...
MUST BE NICE HAVIN' SISTERS...
IT WAS A SURPRISE, BUT...
I'M HAPPY KOMAKI CAME HOME.

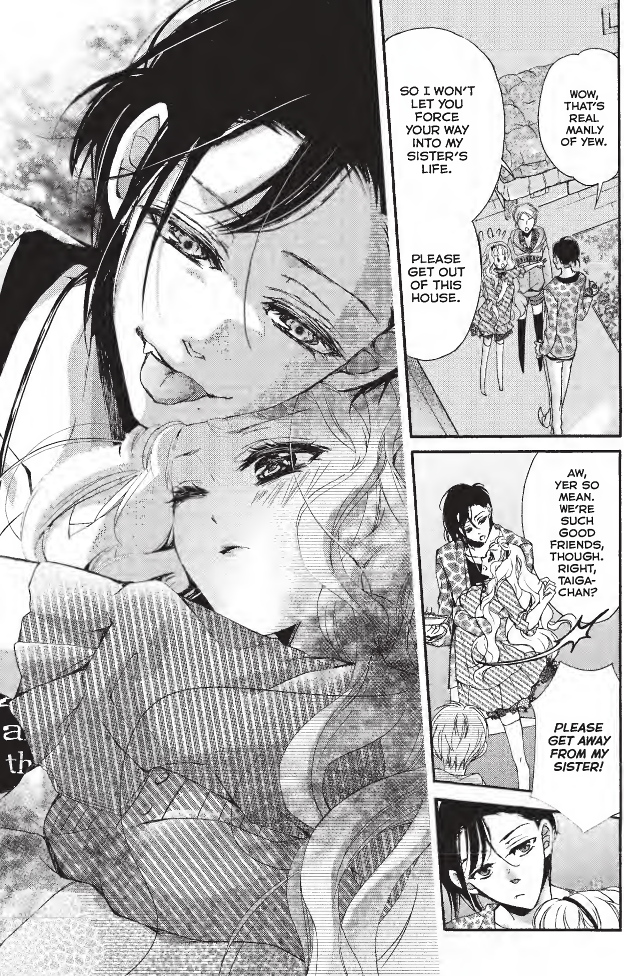

GURGLE~
Hey! They're not done yet!
SIZZLE
I said not yet, Anri!
SEE! IT'S SO MUCH TASTIER WHEN YOU EAT IT TOGETHER!
These are great.
They're great!
KUROGANE'S EATING IT!!
WELCOME HOME
KOMAKI-CHAN
PHEW! TAKOYAKI PARTIES ARE THE BEST!

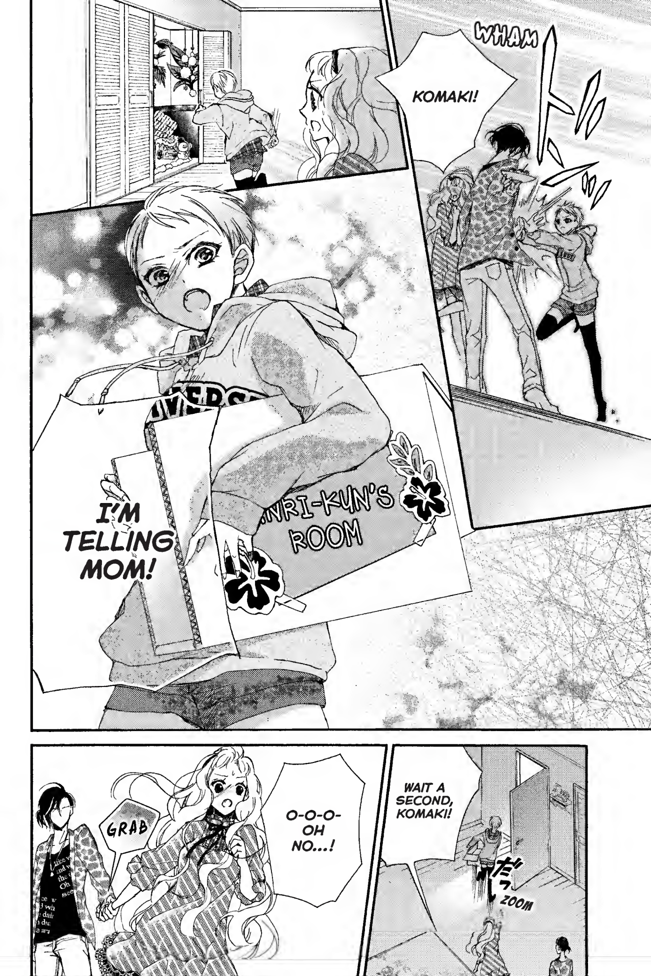

WHAT SHOULD WE PUT IN THE NEXT BATCH?
What about spicy cod roe?
You both eat a lot, huh?
どーん BOOOOOOM
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF OCTOPUS LEFT!
GETTING ANYTHING TO EAT?
Oh!
YES!
THANK YOU FOR TODAY!
WHAT A GOOD KID!
YER A GOOD KID TOO, TAIGA-CHAN.
CHATTER CHATTER
ワイワイ
I'M GONNA RUN TO THE BATHROOM.
OKAY!

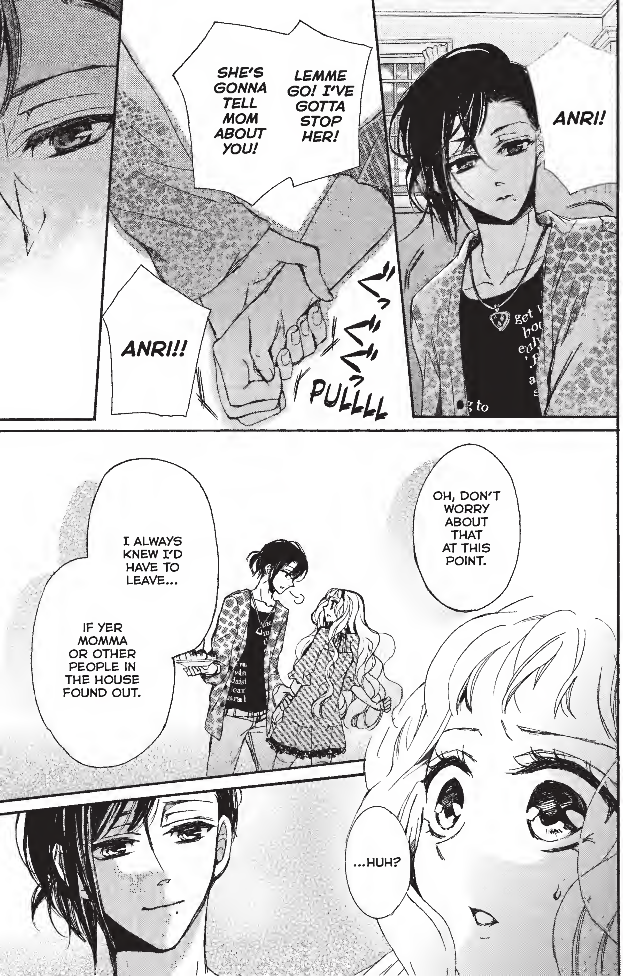

S-SORRY, BUT...
SHH! NOT SO LOUD!
HUH?!
LET'S RUN THIS ANRI CHARACTER OUT TOGETHER!
YANK
HUH?
WHAT?! ME TOO?!

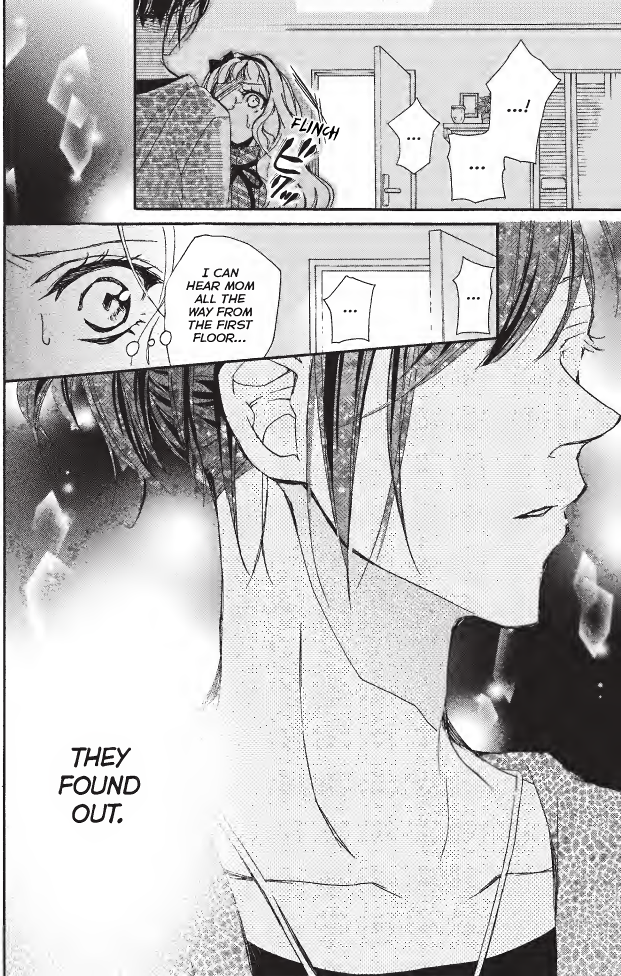

I KNEW IT WAS WEIRD FOR YOU TO BRING A BOY HOME!
And it seemed like he was bothering you...
I BET YOU COULDN'T CHASE HIM OUT BY YOURSELF.
BUT THE TWO OF US CAN HANDLE HIM JUST FINE!
WAIT... I CAN'T JUST RUN HIM OUT FOR NO REASON, KOMAKI...
IT'S NOT FOR NO REASON! YOU LIKE KUROGANE, DON'T YOU, SIS?!
THERE!
ぽん
POOF
THERE'S NO REASON TO LET A GUY STAY IN YOUR HOUSE WHEN YOU'VE GOT A CRUSH ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT GUY!
W- WELL...
YOU MAY... BE RIGHT ABOUT THAT, BUT...
OF COURSE I'M RIGHT. WE SHOULD RUN HIM OUT.
ANRI-KUN'S ROOM
...
PULL IT TOGETHER, SIS!
I THOUGHT YOU HATED LAZY PEOPLE!

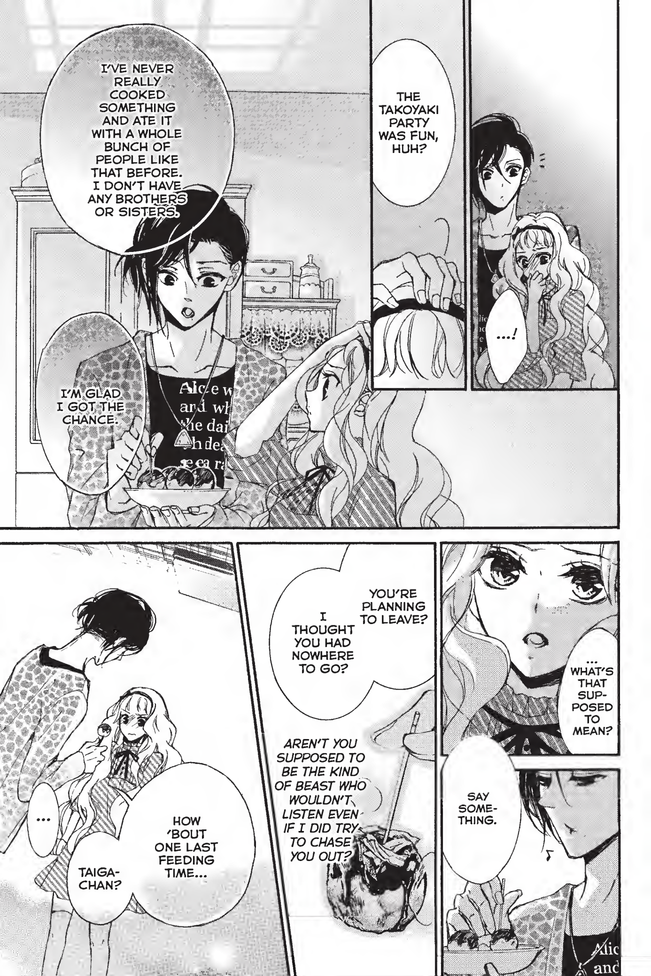

KOMAKI MAY BE RIGHT.
BUT...
...
UM...
UH...
BUT...
GRR...
イラ
WHY WON'T YOU MAKE A DECISION?!
...!
FWIP
ヒョコ
YEW BUSY?
NOM NOM
もぐもぐ
A-ANRI!
YEW REALLY LOVE YER SISTER, HUH, KOMAKI-CHAN?
YES.
BLUNTLY
Calm... Calm down!

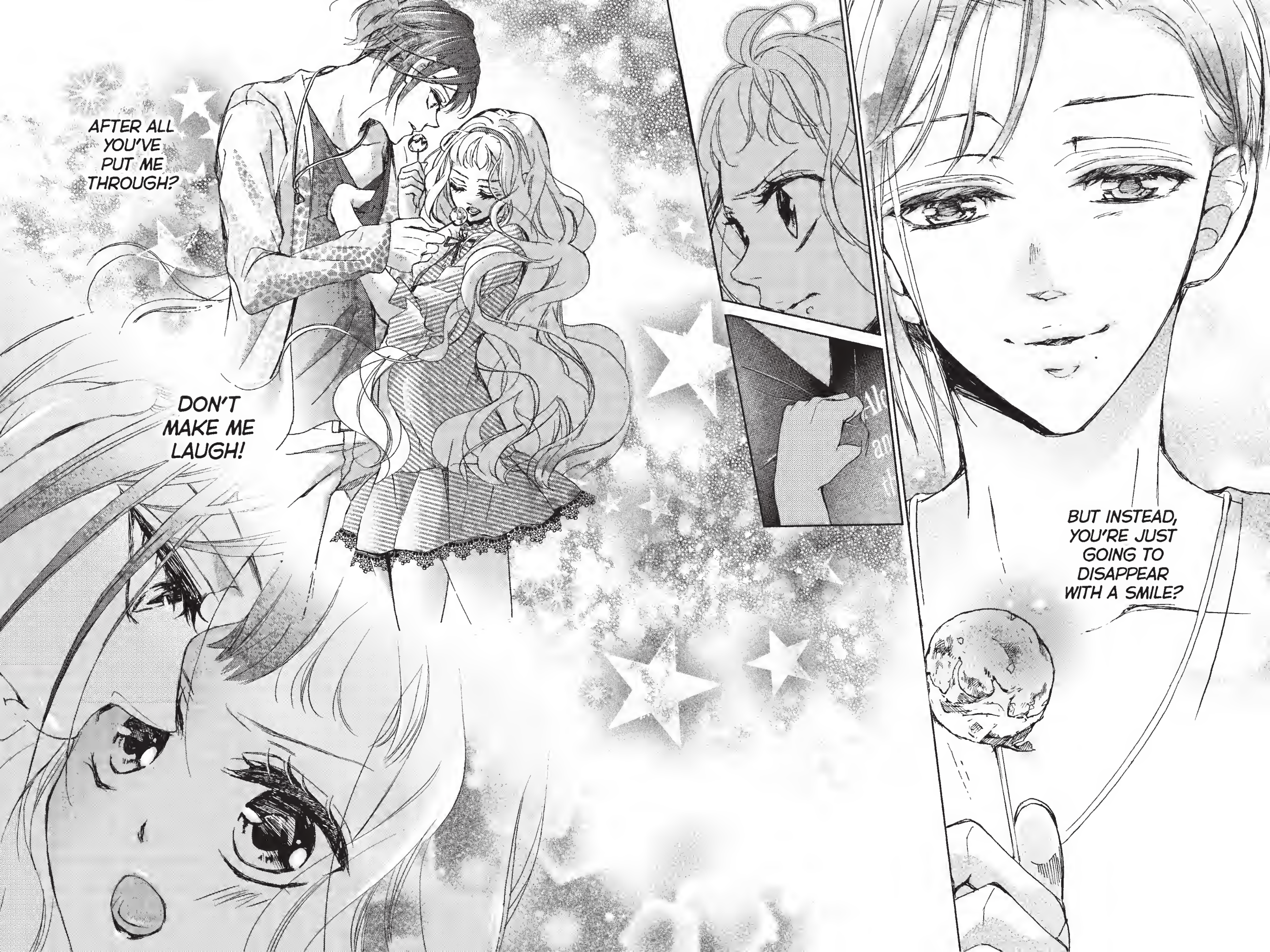

WOW, THAT'S REAL MANLY OF YEW.
SO I WON'T LET YOU FORCE YOUR WAY INTO MY SISTER'S LIFE.
PLEASE GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE.
AW, YER SO MEAN. WE'RE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS, THOUGH. RIGHT, TAIGA-CHAN?
PLEASE GET AWAY FROM MY SISTER!

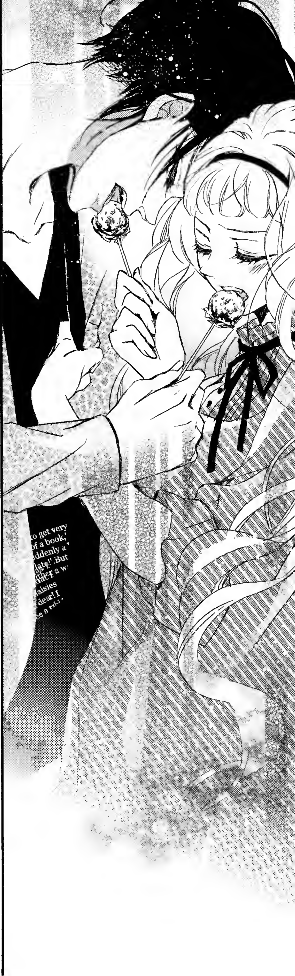

WHAM
KOMAKI!
I'M TELLING MOM!
NRI-KUN'S ROOM
WAIT A SECOND, KOMAKI!
ダッ
ZOOM
O-O-O-OH NO...!
GRAB

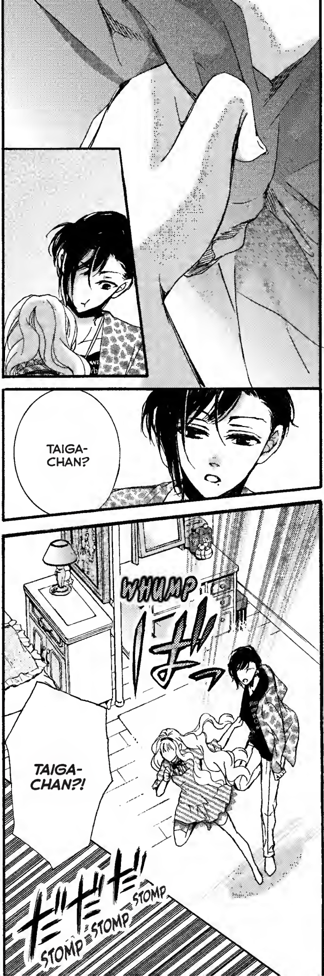

ANRI!
LEMME GO! I'VE GOTTA STOP HER!
SHE'S GONNA TELL MOM ABOUT YOU!
ANRI!!
PULLLL
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT AT THIS POINT.
I ALWAYS KNEW I'D HAVE TO LEAVE...
IF YER MOMMA OR OTHER PEOPLE IN THE HOUSE FOUND OUT.
...HUH?

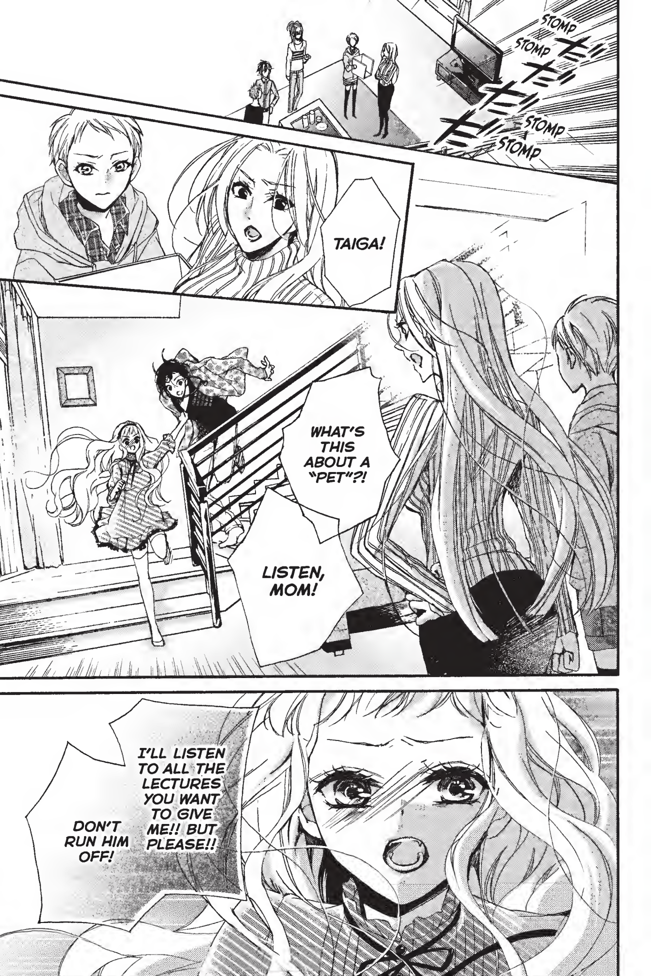

...!
...
...
FLINCH
...
...
I CAN HEAR MOM ALL THE WAY FROM THE FIRST FLOOR...
THEY FOUND OUT.

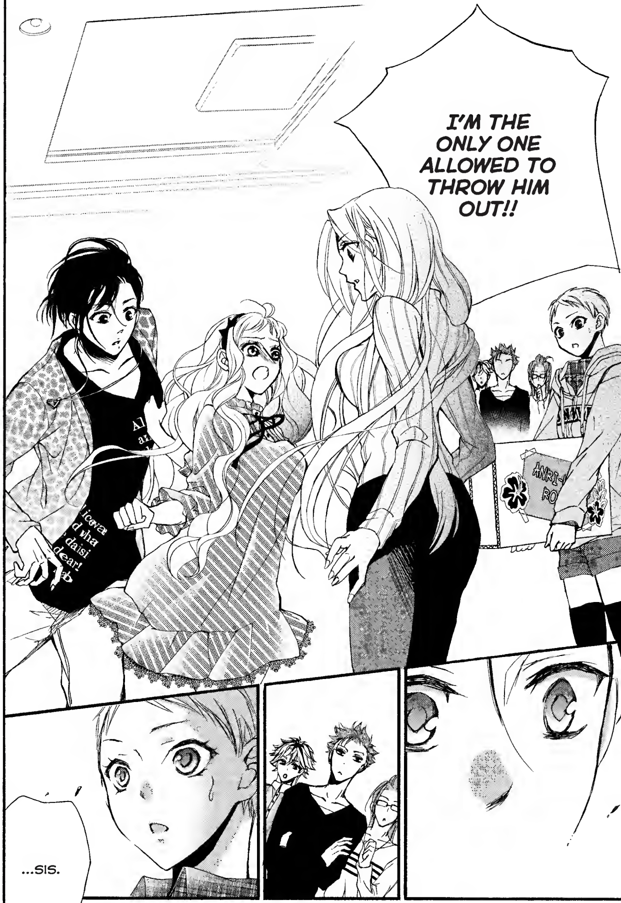

I'VE NEVER REALLY COOKED SOMETHING AND ATE IT WITH A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE LIKE THAT BEFORE. I DON'T HAVE ANY BROTHERS OR SISTERS.
I'M GLAD I GOT THE CHANCE.
THE TAKOYAKI PARTY WAS FUN, HUH?
...!
HOW 'BOUT ONE LAST FEEDING TIME...
TAIGA-CHAN?
...
YOU'RE PLANNING TO LEAVE?
I THOUGHT YOU HAD NOWHERE TO GO?
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE THE KIND OF BEAST WHO WOULDN'T LISTEN EVEN IF I DID TRY TO CHASE YOU OUT?
... WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?
SAY SOME-THING.

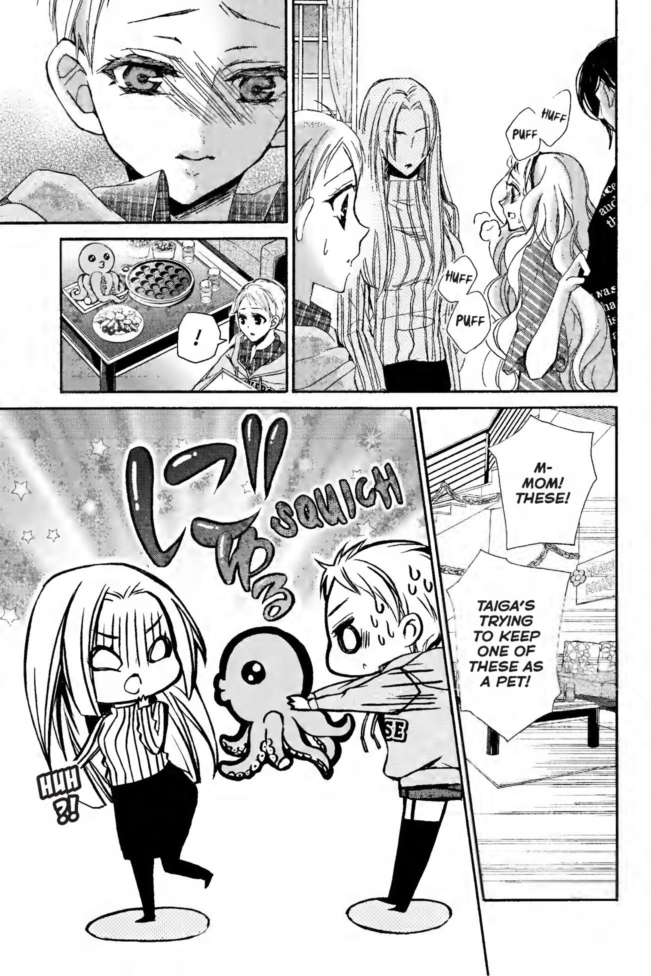

BUT INSTEAD, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO DISAPPEAR WITH A SMILE?
AFTER ALL YOU'VE PUT ME THROUGH?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

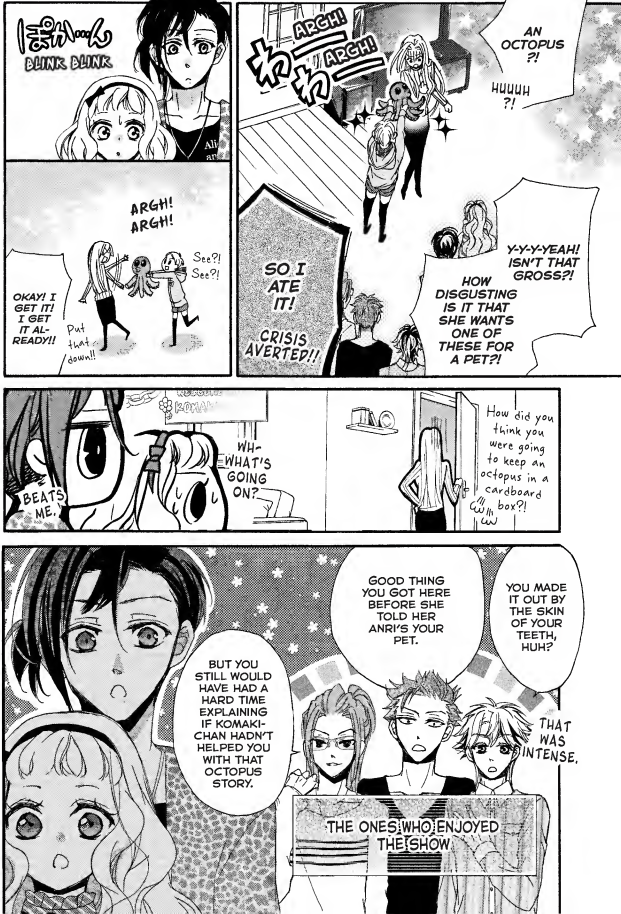

to get very
of a book,'
ddenly a
late!' But
daisies
dear! I

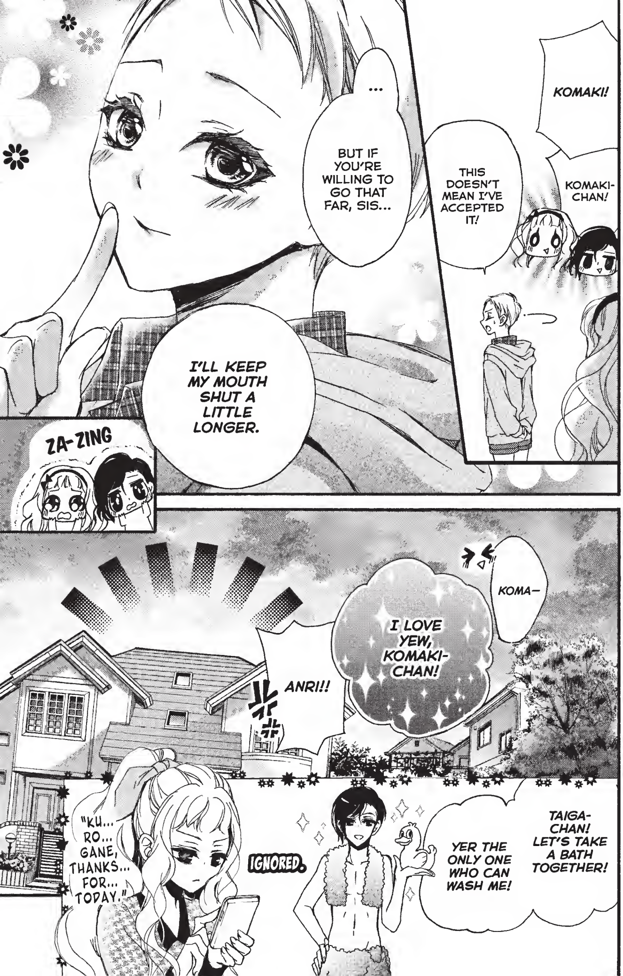

TAIGA-CHAN?
WHUMP
ばっ
TAIGA-CHAN?!
だだだ
STOMP STOMP STOMP


STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
TAIGA!
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A "PET"?!
LISTEN, MOM!
I'LL LISTEN TO ALL THE LECTURES YOU WANT TO GIVE ME!! BUT PLEASE!!
DON'T RUN HIM OFF!

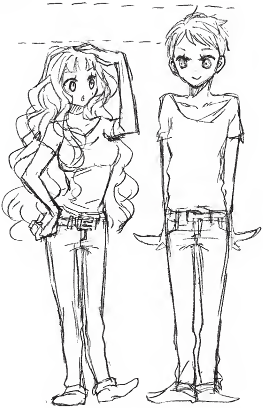

I'M THE ONLY ONE ALLOWED TO THROW HIM OUT!!
...SIS.


HUFF
PUFF
HUFF
PUFF
!
M-MOM! THESE!
TAIGA'S TRYING TO KEEP ONE OF THESE AS A PET!
しゅるっ!!
SQUICH
HUH?!


AN OCTOPUS?!
HUUUH?!
わーー ARGH!
わーー ARGH!
Y-Y-Y-YEAH! ISN'T THAT GROSS?!
HOW DISGUSTING IS IT THAT SHE WANTS ONE OF THESE FOR A PET?!
SO I ATE IT!
CRISIS AVERTED!!
ぽか…ん
BLINK BLINK
ARGH! ARGH!
See?! See?!
OKAY! I GET IT! I GET IT ALREADY!!
Put that down!!
How did you think you were going to keep an octopus in a cardboard box?!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?
BEATS ME.
YOU MADE IT OUT BY THE SKIN OF YOUR TEETH, HUH?
GOOD THING YOU GOT HERE BEFORE SHE TOLD HER ANRI'S YOUR PET.
BUT YOU STILL WOULD HAVE HAD A HARD TIME EXPLAINING IF KOMAKI-CHAN HADN'T HELPED YOU WITH THAT OCTOPUS STORY.
THAT WAS INTENSE.
THE ONES WHO ENJOYED THE SHOW

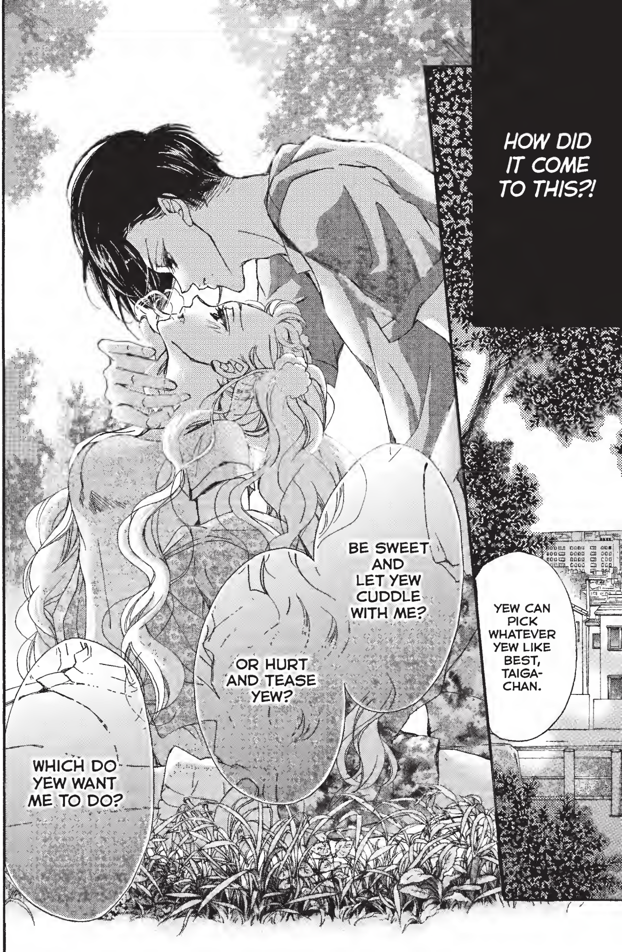

KOMAKI!
KOMAKI-CHAN!
THIS DOESN'T MEAN I'VE ACCEPTED IT!
...
BUT IF YOU'RE WILLING TO GO THAT FAR, SIS...
I'LL KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT A LITTLE LONGER.
ZA-ZING
KOMA—
I LOVE YEW, KOMAKI-CHAN!
ANRI!!
TAIGA-CHAN! LET'S TAKE A BATH TOGETHER!
YER THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN WASH ME!
IGNORED.
"KU... RO... GANE, THANKS... FOR... TODAY."

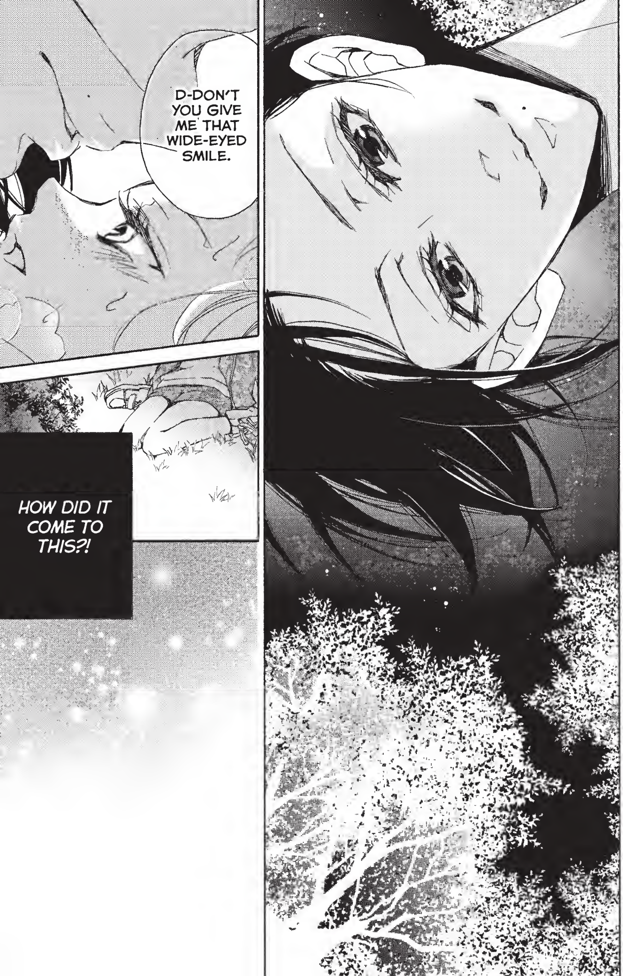
Komaki's taller.

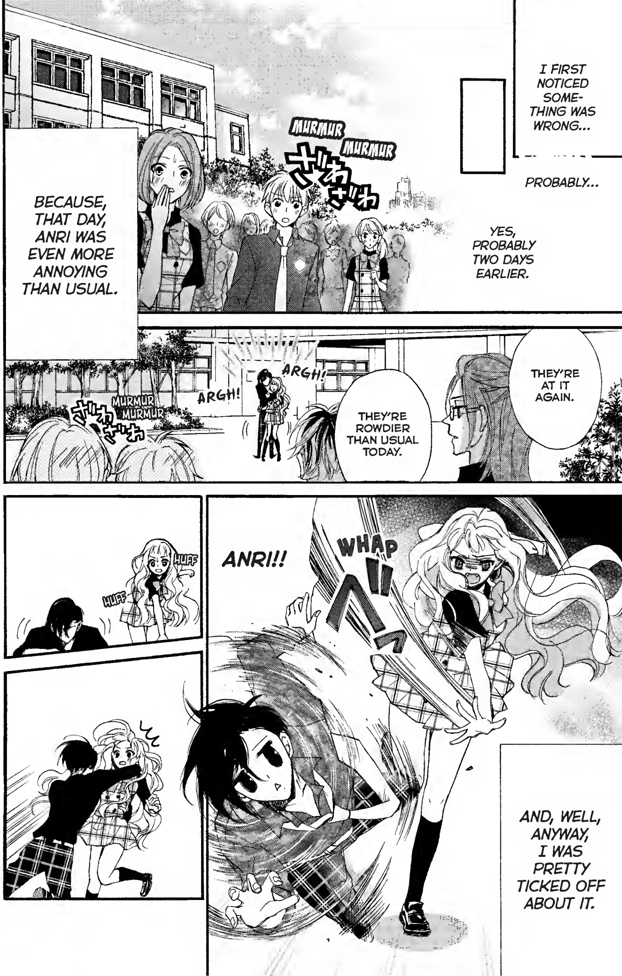


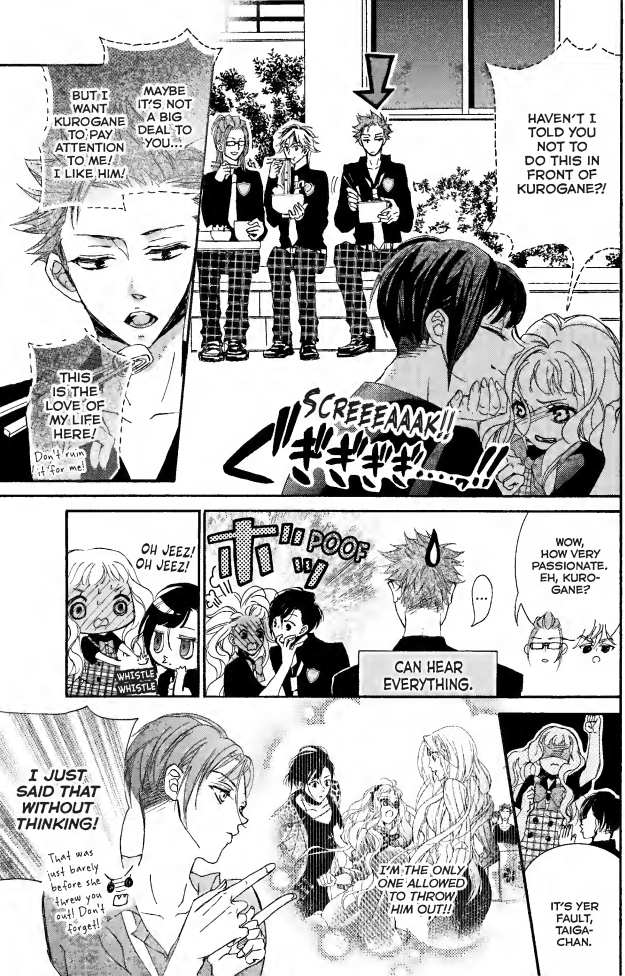
TRAP 10

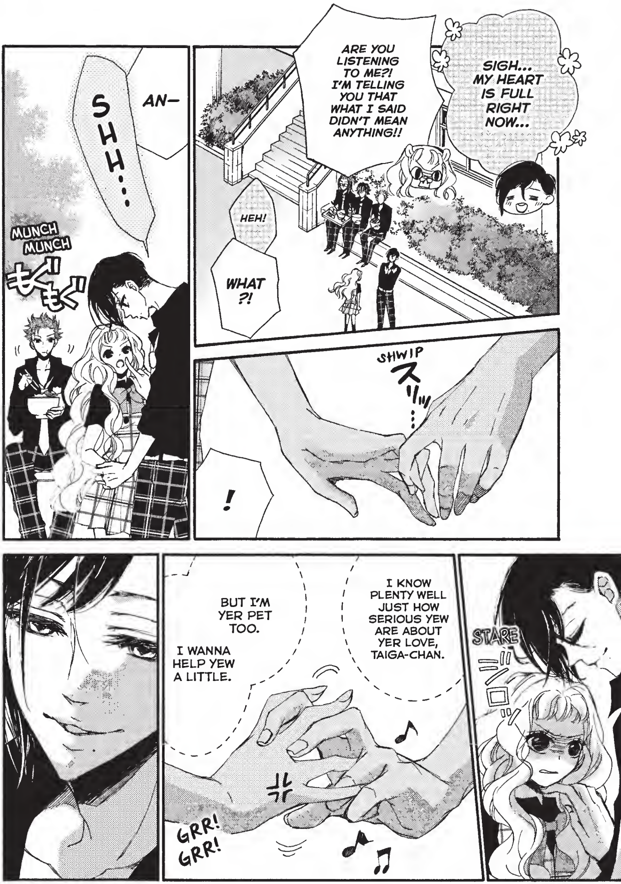
Sweet, Painful.

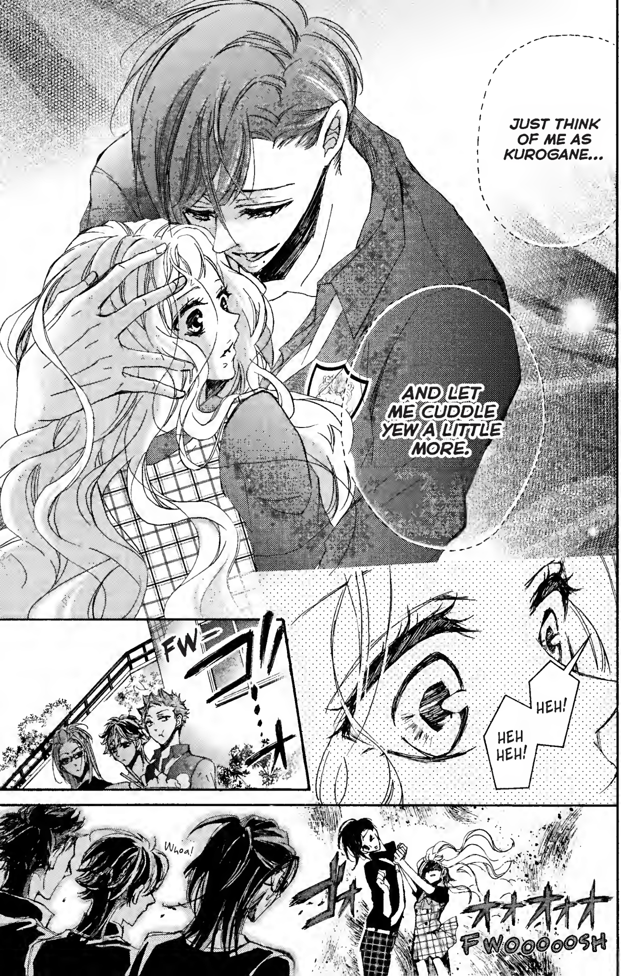

HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?!
YEW CAN PICK WHATEVER YEW LIKE BEST, TAIGA-CHAN.
BE SWEET AND LET YEW CUDDLE WITH ME?
OR HURT AND TEASE YEW?
WHICH DO YEW WANT ME TO DO?

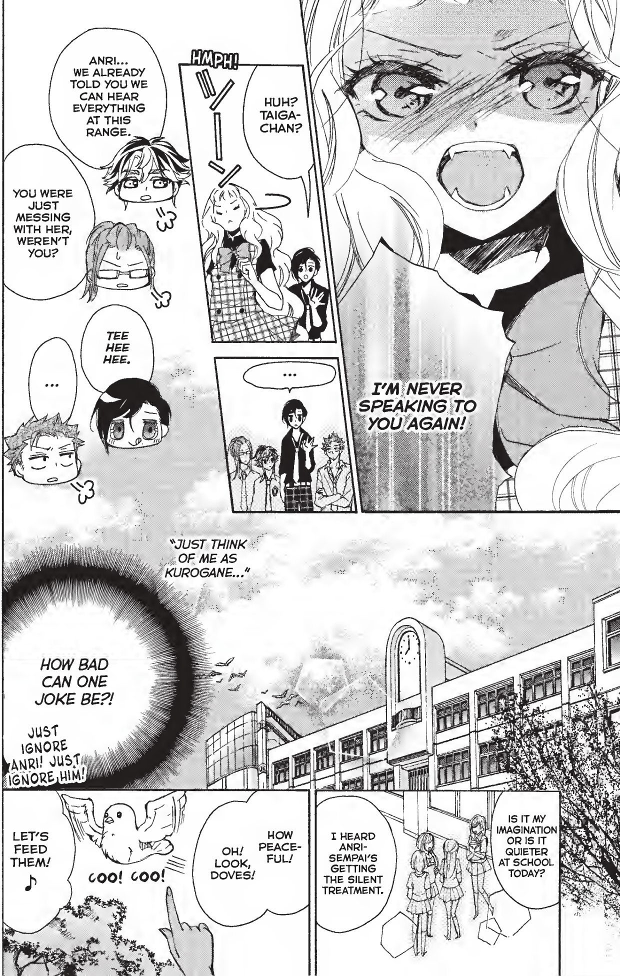

D-DON'T YOU GIVE ME THAT WIDE-EYED SMILE.
HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?!


I FIRST NOTICED SOMETHING WAS WRONG...
PROBABLY...
YES, PROBABLY TWO DAYS EARLIER.
MURMUR MURMUR
ざわざわ
BECAUSE, THAT DAY, ANRI WAS EVEN MORE ANNOYING THAN USUAL.
THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN.
THEY'RE ROWDIER THAN USUAL TODAY.
ARGH!
ARGH!
MURMUR MURMUR
ざわざわ
ANRI!!
WHAP
AND, WELL, ANYWAY, I WAS PRETTY TICKED OFF ABOUT IT.
HUFF
HUFF


HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU NOT TO DO THIS IN FRONT OF KUROGANE?!
MAYBE IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL TO YOU...
BUT I WANT KUROGANE TO PAY ATTENTION TO ME! I LIKE HIM!
THIS IS THE LOVE OF MY LIFE HERE!
Don't ruin it for me!
SCREEEAAAK!!
ぐぎぎぎ…!!
WOW, HOW VERY PASSIONATE. EH, KUROGANE?
...
ボッ
POOF
CAN HEAR EVERYTHING.
OH JEEZ! OH JEEZ!
WHISTLE WHISTLE
IT'S YER FAULT, TAIGA-CHAN.
I'M THE ONLY ONE ALLOWED TO THROW HIM OUT!!
I JUST SAID THAT WITHOUT THINKING!
That was just barely before she threw you out! Don't forget!!

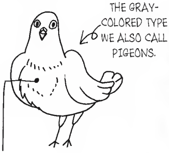

SIGH... MY HEART IS FULL RIGHT NOW...
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?! I'M TELLING YOU THAT WHAT I SAID DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING!!
HEH!
WHAT?!
SHWIP スリッ...
!
AN—
SHH...
MUNCH MUNCH もぐもぐ
STARE ジーッ
I KNOW PLENTY WELL JUST HOW SERIOUS YEW ARE ABOUT YER LOVE, TAIGA-CHAN.
BUT I'M YER PET TOO.
I WANNA HELP YEW A LITTLE.
GRR! GRR!


JUST THINK OF ME AS KUROGANE...
AND LET ME CUDDLE YEW A LITTLE MORE.
HEH!
HEH HEH!
FW
Whoa!
オオオオオ
FWOOOOOSH

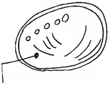

I'M NEVER SPEAKING TO YOU AGAIN!
HMPH!
HUH? TAIGA-CHAN?
...
ANRI... WE ALREADY TOLD YOU WE CAN HEAR EVERYTHING AT THIS RANGE.
YOU WERE JUST MESSING WITH HER, WEREN'T YOU?
TEE HEE HEE.
...
"JUST THINK OF ME AS KUROGANE..."
HOW BAD CAN ONE JOKE BE?!
JUST IGNORE ANRI! JUST IGNORE HIM!
IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR IS IT QUIETER AT SCHOOL TODAY?
I HEARD ANRI-SEMPAI'S GETTING THE SILENT TREATMENT.
HOW PEACEFUL!
OH! LOOK, DOVES!
COO! COO!
LET'S FEED THEM! ♪

3 ABOUT DOVES

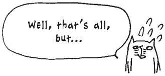
WHEN YOU TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE DOVES YOU SEE IN PARKS AND STUFF...


THE GRAY-COLORED TYPE WE ALSO CALL PIGEONS.

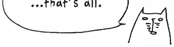
WHEN I LOOK AT THIS AREA THAT HAS THE MIXED GREEN AND PURPLE COLORING...

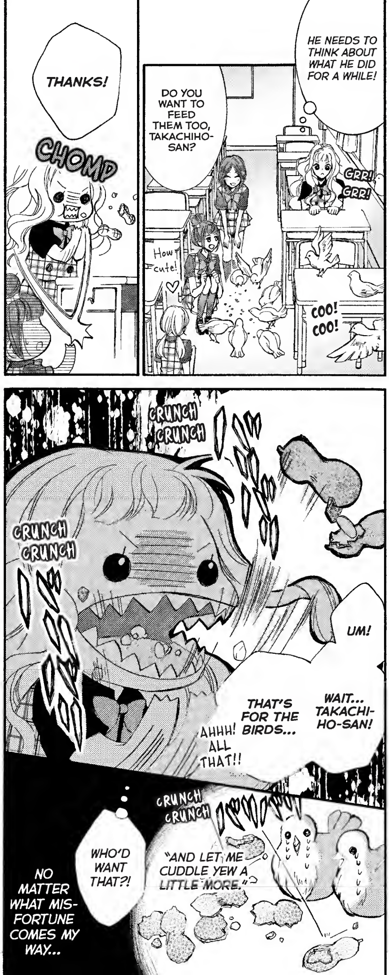


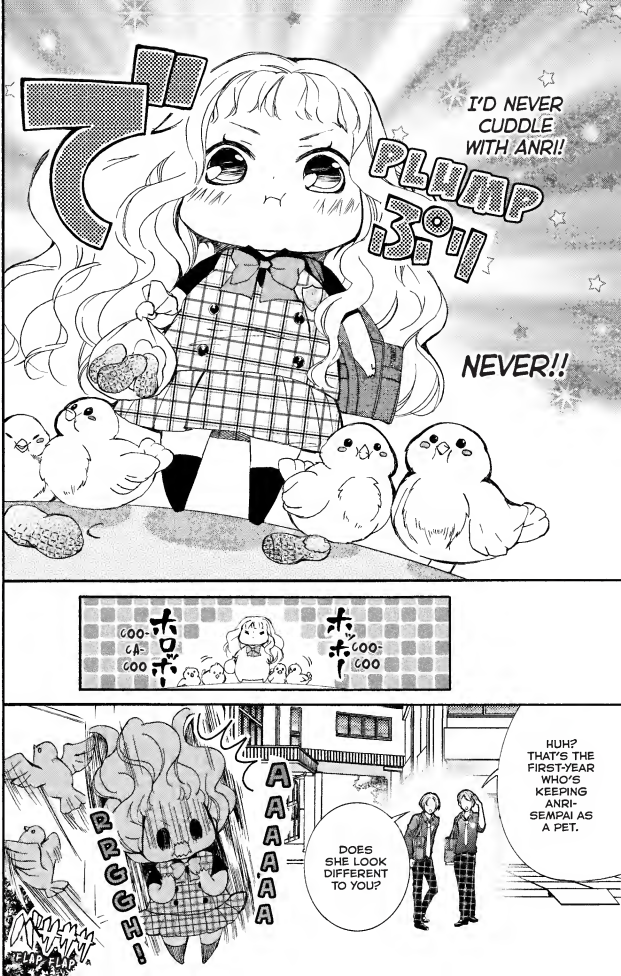
IT REMINDS ME OF THE UNDERSIDE OF ABALONE SHELLS. THE SHINY GREEN AND PURPLE PARTS.

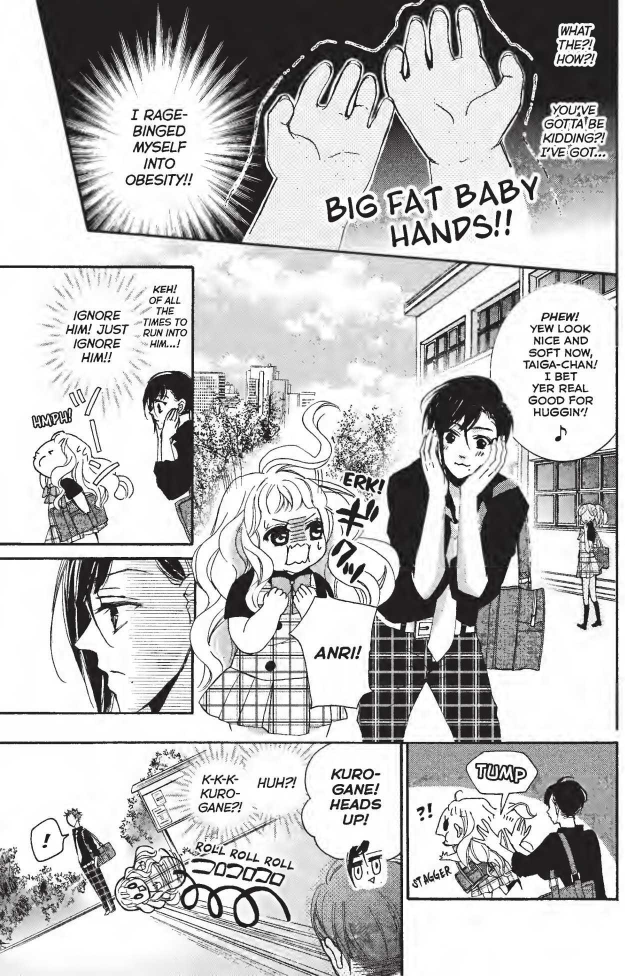

Well, that's all, but...

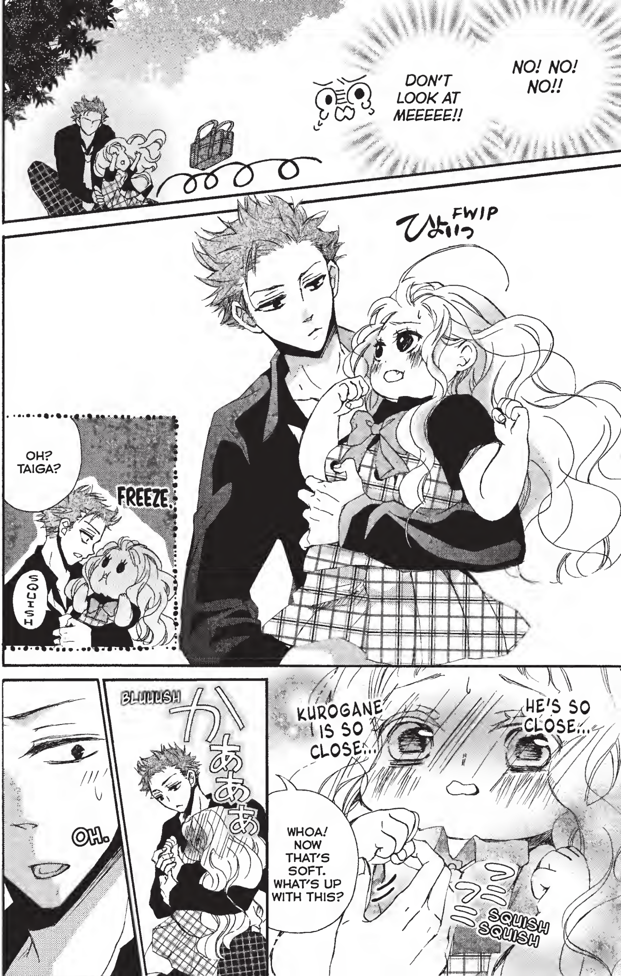
I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT. OH! BUT THE BACKS OF JEWEL BEETLES SEEM A LITTLE DIFFERENT TO ME.

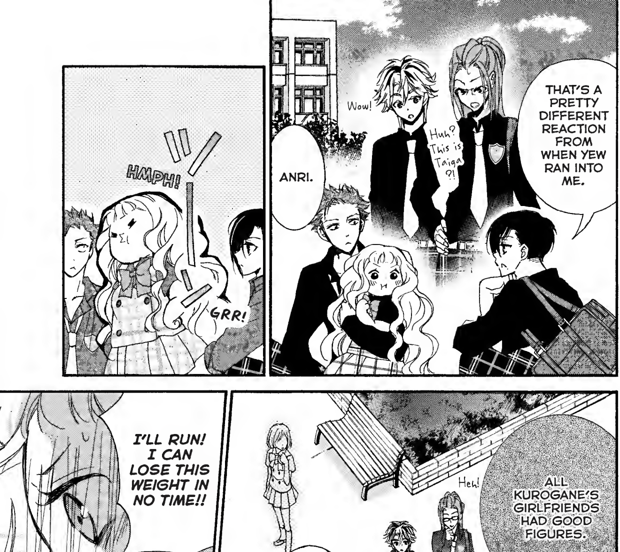


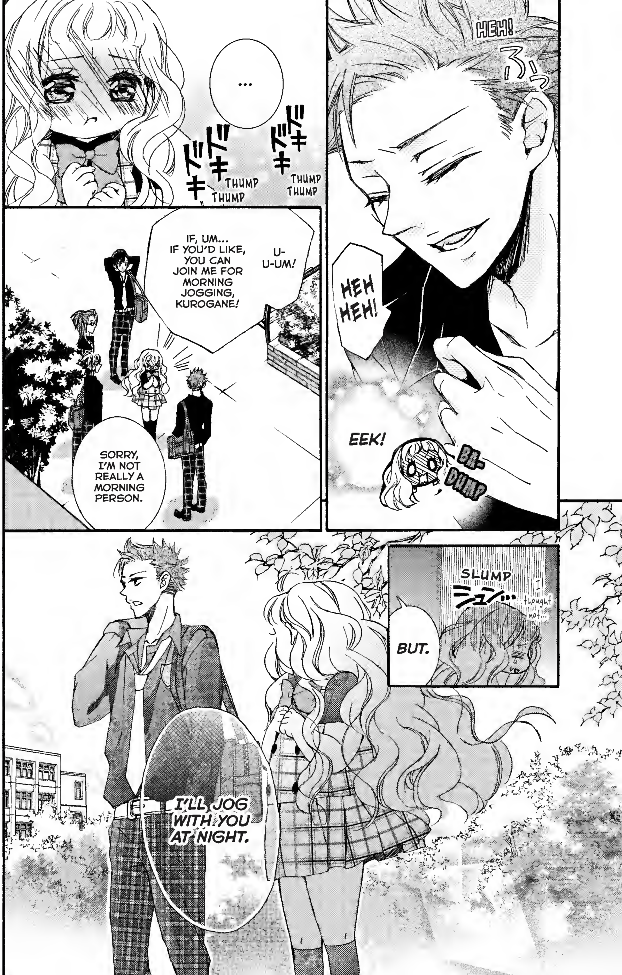

HE NEEDS TO THINK ABOUT WHAT HE DID FOR A WHILE!
DO YOU WANT TO FEED THEM TOO, TAKACHIHO-SAN?
GRR! GRR!
How cute!
COO! COO!
THANKS!
CHOMP
CRUNCH CRUNCH
CRUNCH CRUNCH
UM!
WAIT... TAKACHIHO-SAN!
THAT'S FOR THE BIRDS...
AHHH! ALL THAT!!
CRUNCH CRUNCH
"AND LET ME CUDDLE YEW A LITTLE MORE."
WHO'D WANT THAT?!
NO MATTER WHAT MISFORTUNE COMES MY WAY...

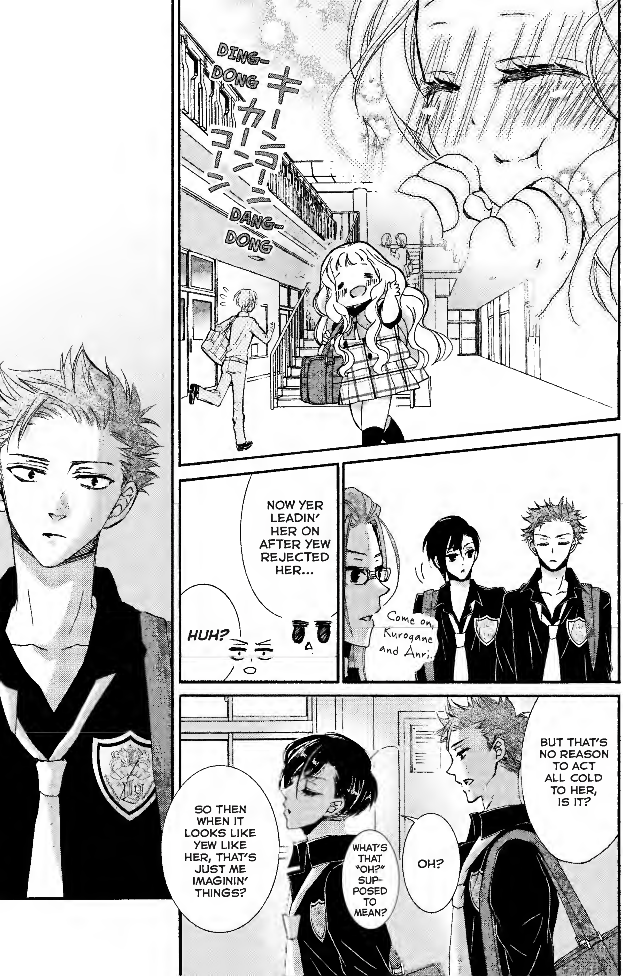

ブ
I'D NEVER CUDDLE WITH ANRI!
PLUMP
ぷっ
NEVER!!
ホッホー
COO-COO
ホロッボー
COO-CA-COO
HUH? THAT'S THE FIRST-YEAR WHO'S KEEPING ANRI-SEMPAI AS A PET.
DOES SHE LOOK DIFFERENT TO YOU?
AAAAAAAA
RRGGGH!
バサササ
FLAP FLAP

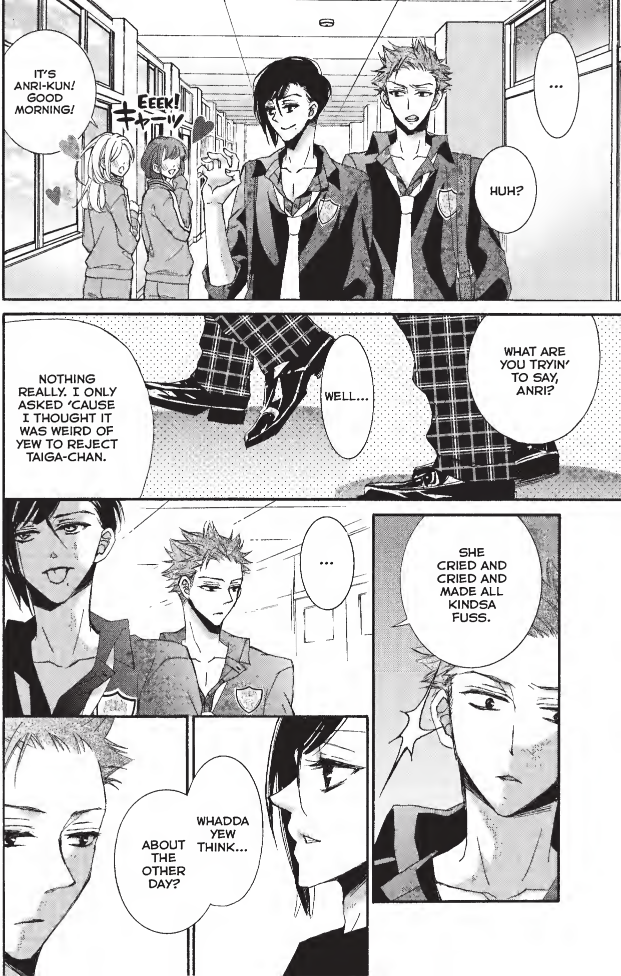

WHAT THE?! HOW?!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING?! I'VE GOT...
BIG FAT BABY HANDS!!
I RAGE-BINGED MYSELF INTO OBESITY!!
PHEW! YEW LOOK NICE AND SOFT NOW, TAIGA-CHAN! I BET YER REAL GOOD FOR HUGGIN'! ♪
ERK!
ギクッ
ANRI!
KEH! OF ALL THE TIMES TO RUN INTO HIM...!
IGNORE HIM! JUST IGNORE HIM!!
HMPH!
TUMP
?!
STAGGER
KURO-GANE! HEADS UP!
HUH?!
K-K-K-KURO-GANE?!
ROLL ROLL ROLL
コロコロコロ
!

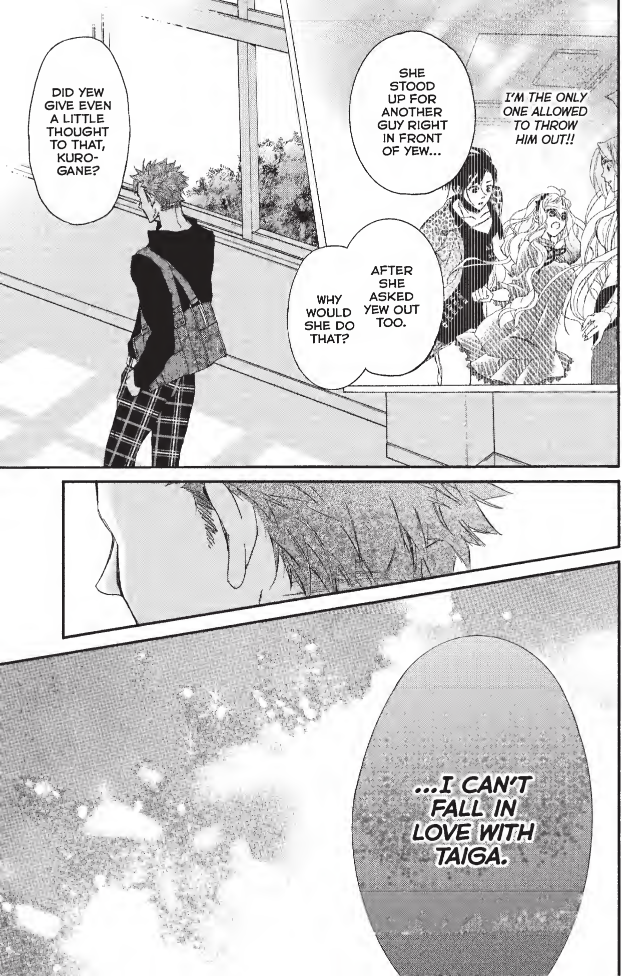

NO! NO! NO!!
DON'T LOOK AT MEEEEE!!
ひょいっ FWIP
OH? TAIGA?
FREEZE.
SQUISH
HE'S SO CLOSE...
KUROGANE IS SO CLOSE...
フニ フミ
SQUISH SQUISH
WHOA! NOW THAT'S SOFT. WHAT'S UP WITH THIS?
かあああ
BLUUUSH
OH.

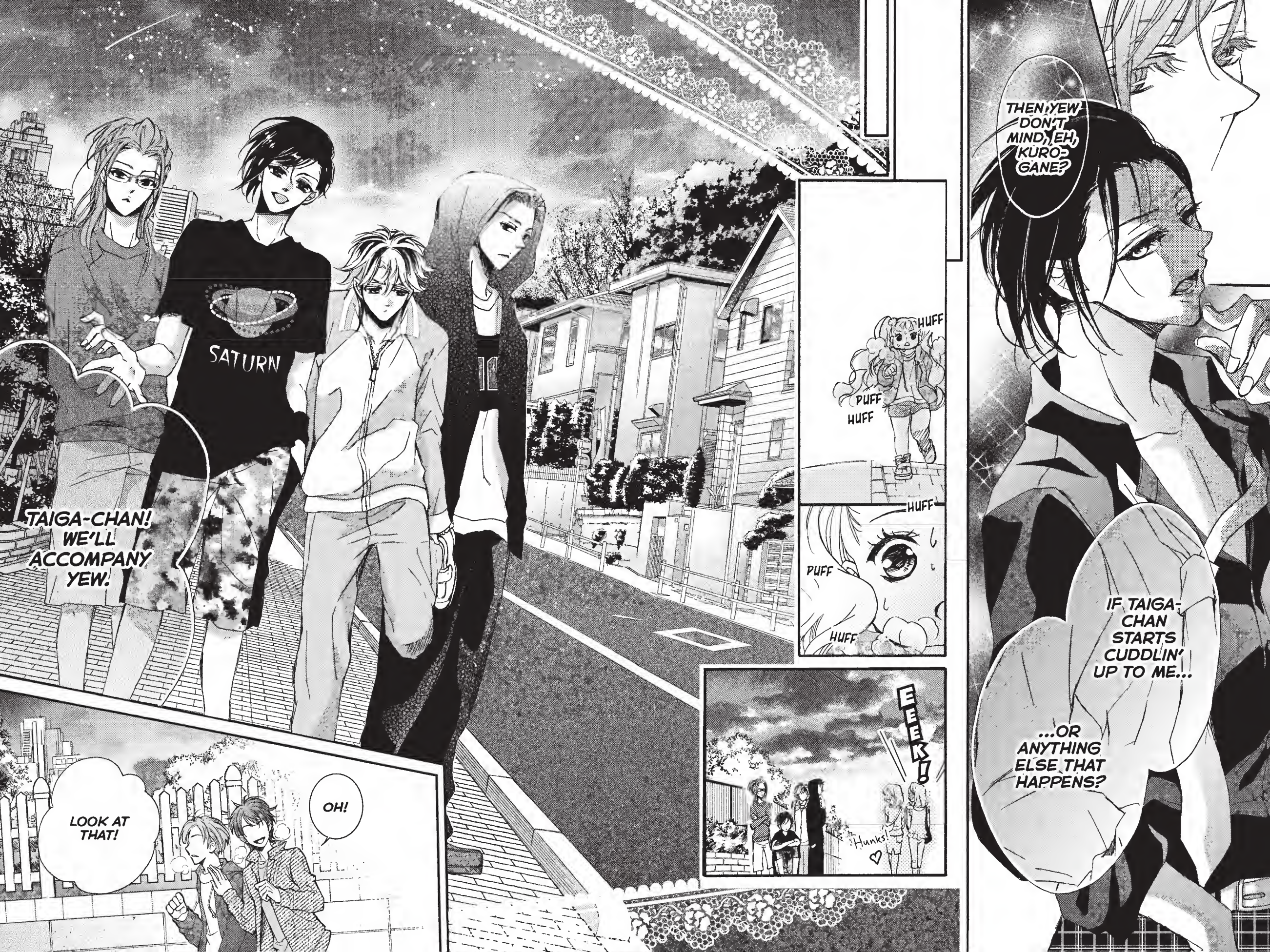

THAT'S A PRETTY DIFFERENT REACTION FROM WHEN YEW RAN INTO ME.
Huh? This is Taiga?!
Wow!
ANRI.
HMPH!
GRR!
Heh!
ALL KUROGANE'S GIRLFRIENDS HAD GOOD FIGURES.
SHUNK
...!
STOP IT, ANRI.
I WAS JUST TALKIN' TO MYSELF.
JUST BECAUSE SHE IGNORED YOU A BIT... WHAT ARE YOU, A LITTLE KID?
I'LL RUN! I CAN LOSE THIS WEIGHT IN NO TIME!!
...I WAS JUST TALKING TO MYSELF!

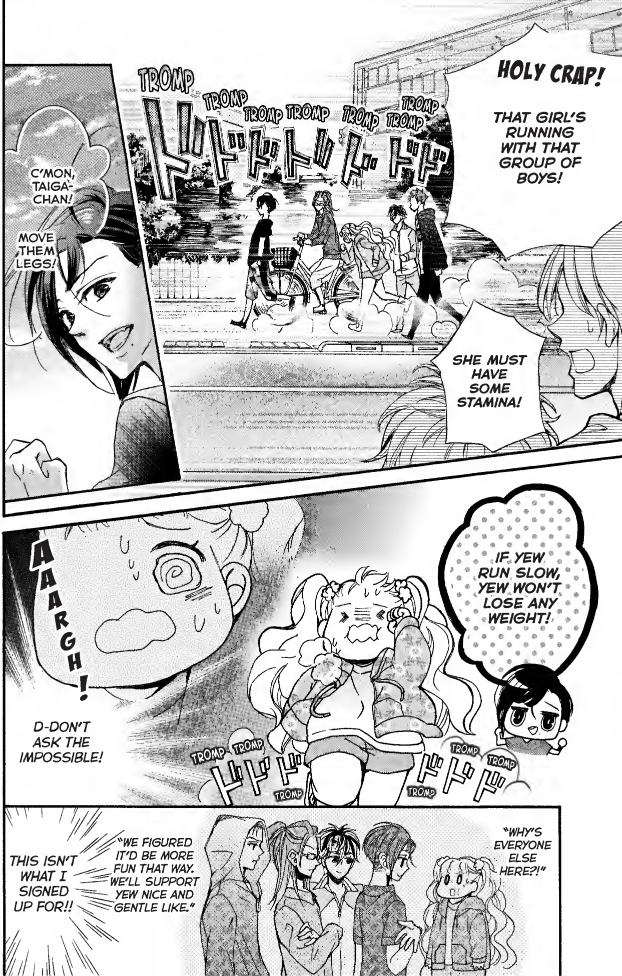

HEH!
ふっ
HEH HEH!
EEK!
BA-DUMP
...
ドキ ドキ
THUMP THUMP
ドキ ドキ
THUMP THUMP
U-U-UM!
IF, UM... IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU CAN JOIN ME FOR MORNING JOGGING, KUROGANE!
SORRY, I'M NOT REALLY A MORNING PERSON.
SLUMP
シュン…
I thought not...
BUT.
I'LL JOG WITH YOU AT NIGHT.

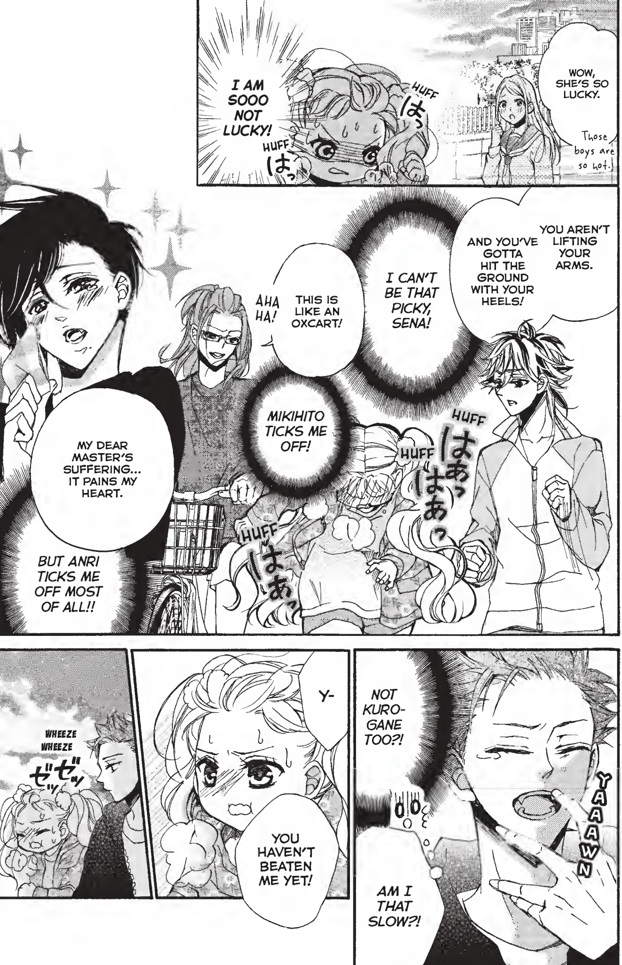

DING-DONG
キーンコーン
カーンコーン
DANG-DONG
Come on, Kurogane and Anri.
NOW YER LEADIN' HER ON AFTER YEW REJECTED HER...
HUH?
BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO ACT ALL COLD TO HER, IS IT?
OH?
WHAT'S THAT "OH?" SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
SO THEN WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE YEW LIKE HER, THAT'S JUST ME IMAGININ' THINGS?

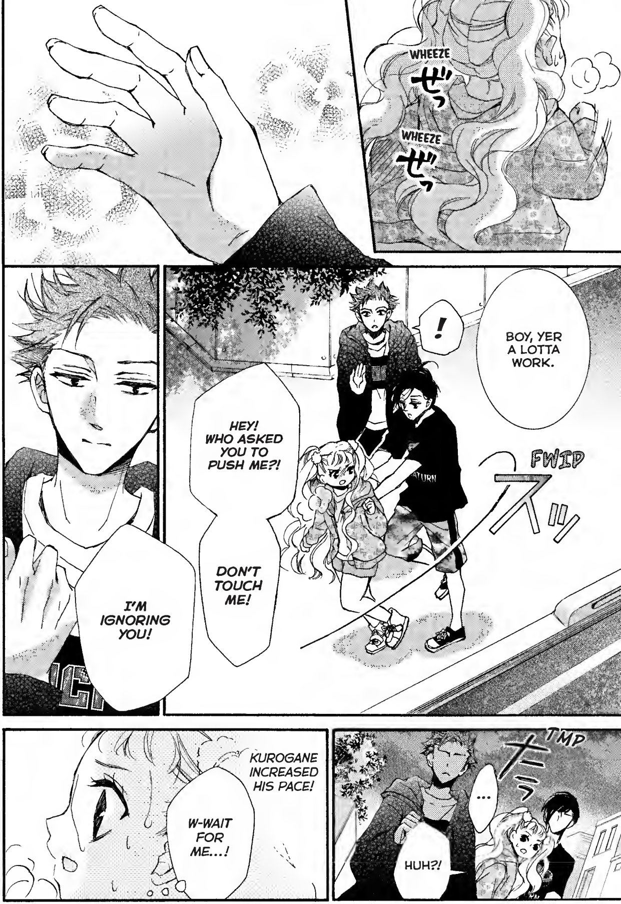

...
HUH?
IT'S ANRI-KUN! GOOD MORNING!
EEEK! キャーッ
WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' TO SAY, ANRI?
WELL...
NOTHING REALLY. I ONLY ASKED 'CAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD OF YEW TO REJECT TAIGA-CHAN.
SHE CRIED AND CRIED AND MADE ALL KINDSA FUSS.
...
WHADDA YEW THINK...
ABOUT THE OTHER DAY?

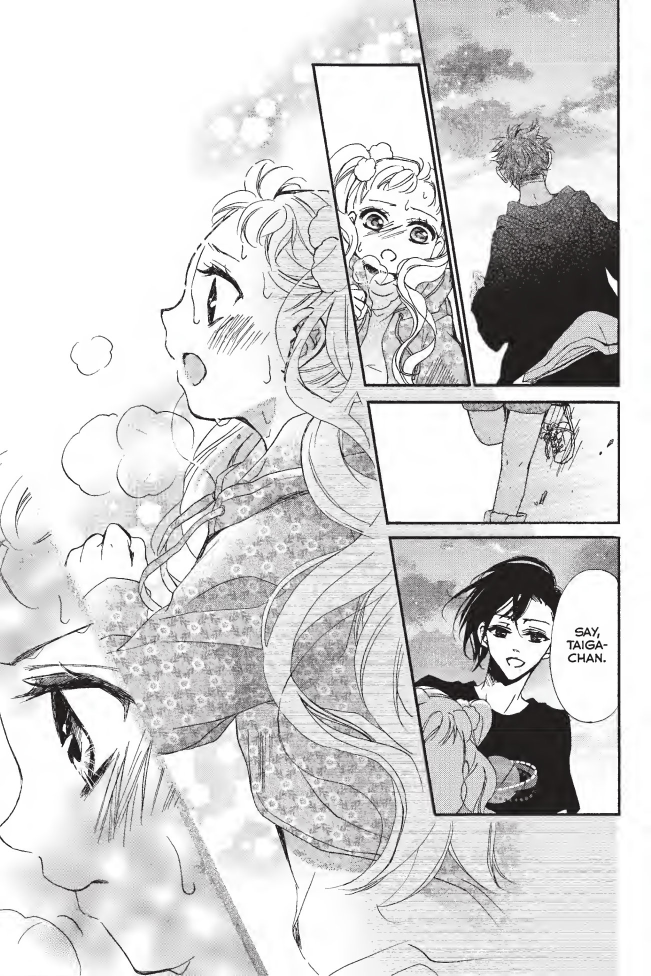

I'M THE ONLY ONE ALLOWED TO THROW HIM OUT!!
SHE STOOD UP FOR ANOTHER GUY RIGHT IN FRONT OF YEW...
AFTER SHE ASKED YEW OUT TOO.
WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?
DID YEW GIVE EVEN A LITTLE THOUGHT TO THAT, KUROGANE?
...I CAN'T FALL IN LOVE WITH TAIGA.

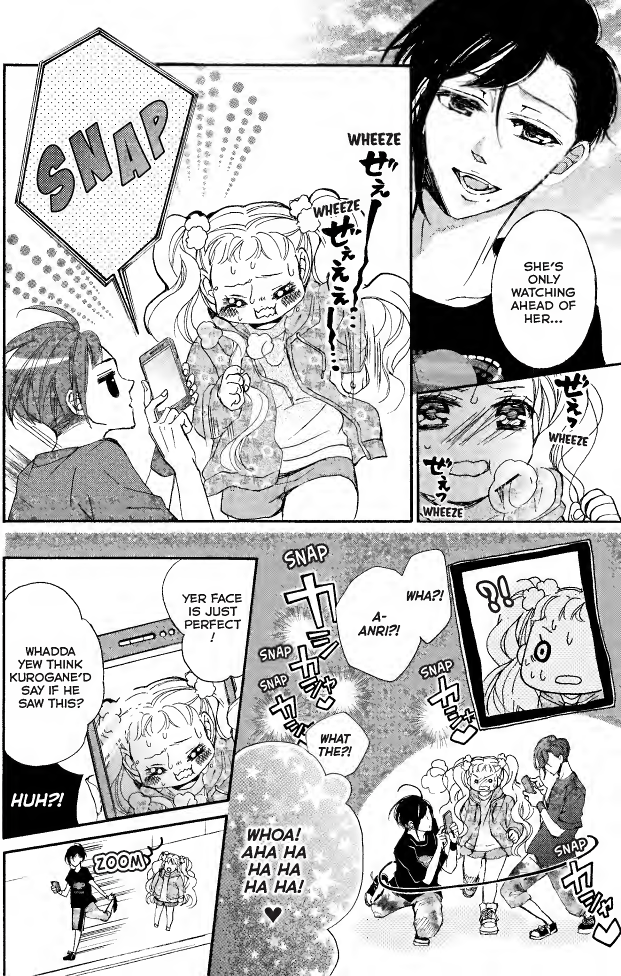

THEN YEW DON'T MIND, EH, KURO-GANE?
IF TAIGA-CHAN STARTS CUDDLIN' UP TO ME...
...OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT HAPPENS?
HUFF
PUFF
HUFF
HUFF
PUFF
HUFF
TAIGA-CHAN! WE'LL ACCOMPANY YEW.
SATURN
EEEK!
Hunks! ♡
OH!
LOOK AT THAT!

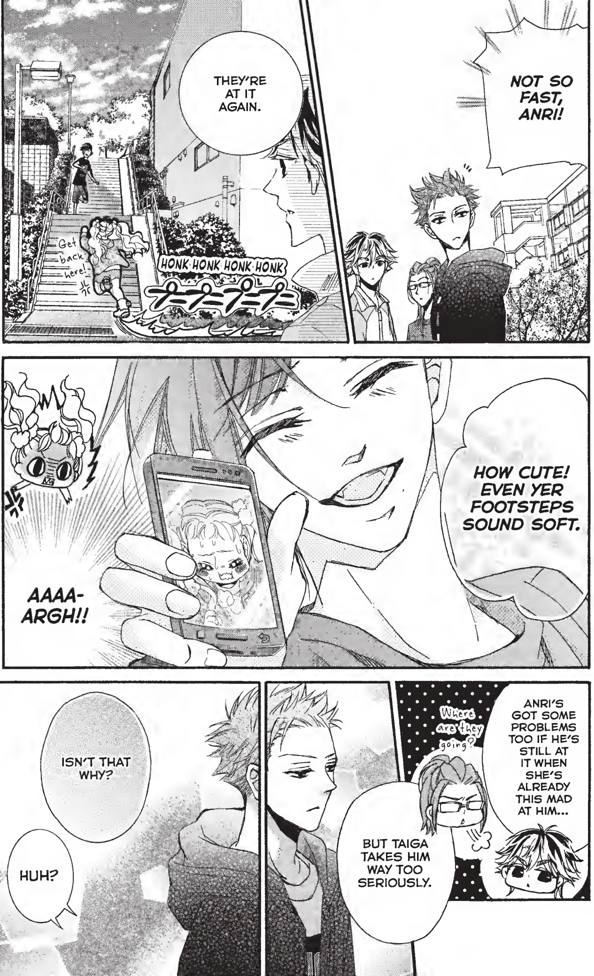

HOLY CRAP!
THAT GIRL'S RUNNING WITH THAT GROUP OF BOYS!
TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP
SHE MUST HAVE SOME STAMINA!
C'MON, TAIGA-CHAN!
MOVE THEM LEGS!
IF YEW RUN SLOW, YEW WON'T LOSE ANY WEIGHT!
TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP
TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP
AAARGH!
D-DON'T ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE!
"WHY'S EVERYONE ELSE HERE?!"
"WE FIGURED IT'D BE MORE FUN THAT WAY. WE'LL SUPPORT YEW NICE AND GENTLE LIKE."
THIS ISN'T WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR!!

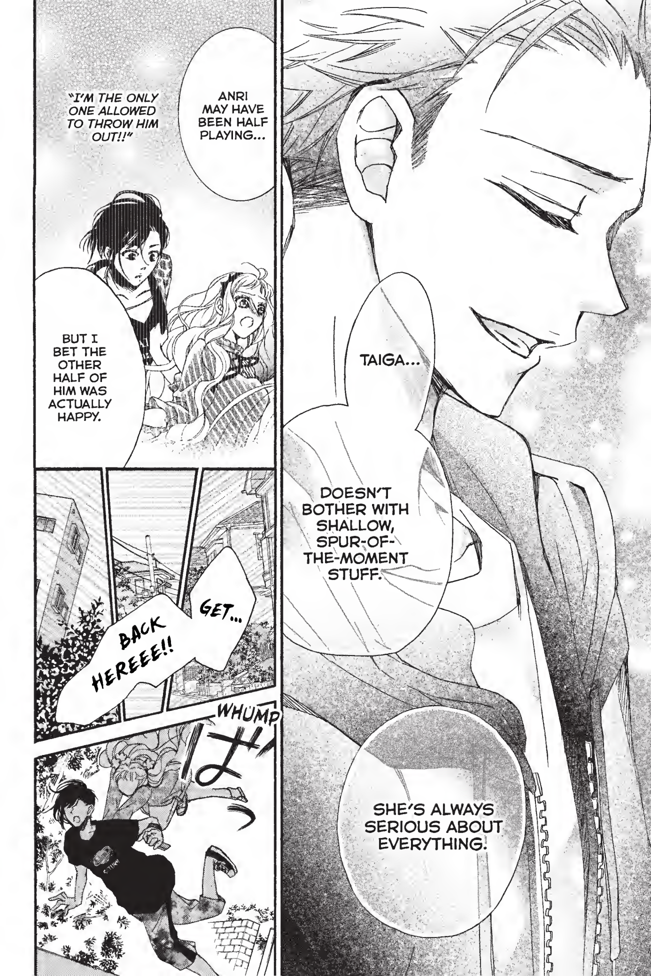

WOW, SHE'S SO LUCKY.
Those boys are so hot.
I AM SOOO NOT LUCKY!
HUFF はっ
HUFF はっ
YOU AREN'T LIFTING YOUR ARMS.
AND YOU'VE GOTTA HIT THE GROUND WITH YOUR HEELS!
I CAN'T BE THAT PICKY, SENA!
HUFF はあっ
HUFF はあっ
AHA HA!
THIS IS LIKE AN OXCART!
MIKIHITO TICKS ME OFF!
HUFF はあっ
MY DEAR MASTER'S SUFFERING... IT PAINS MY HEART.
BUT ANRI TICKS ME OFF MOST OF ALL!!
YAAAAWN
NOT KURO-GANE TOO?!
AM I THAT SLOW?!
Y-
YOU HAVEN'T BEATEN ME YET!
WHEEZE WHEEZE
ゼゼッ

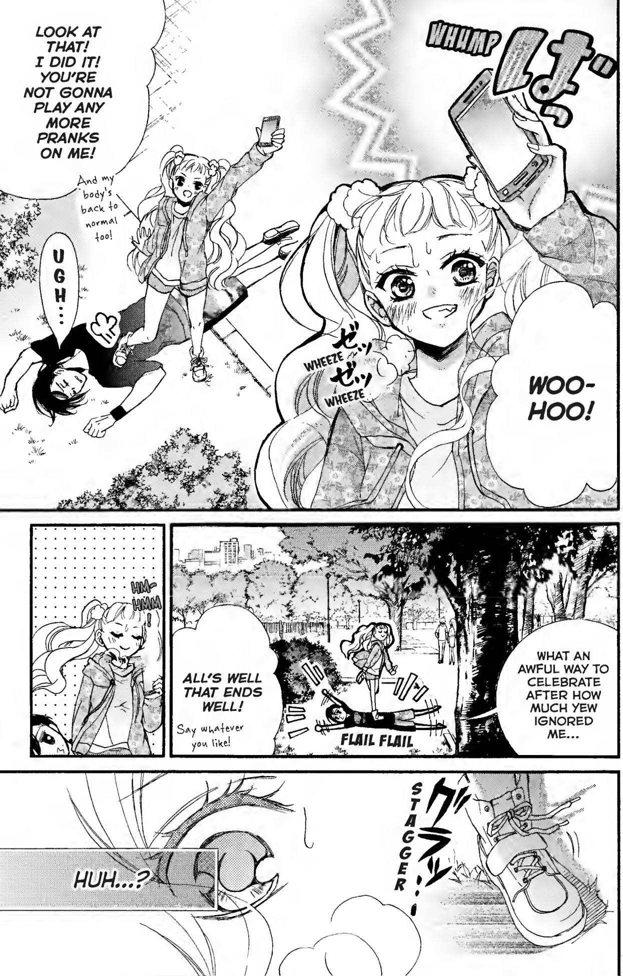

WHEEZE
ぜっ
WHEEZE
ぜっ
BOY, YER A LOTTA WORK.
!
HEY! WHO ASKED YOU TO PUSH ME?!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
FWIP
スッ
I'M IGNORING YOU!
TMP
...
HUH?!
KUROGANE INCREASED HIS PACE!
W-WAIT FOR ME...!

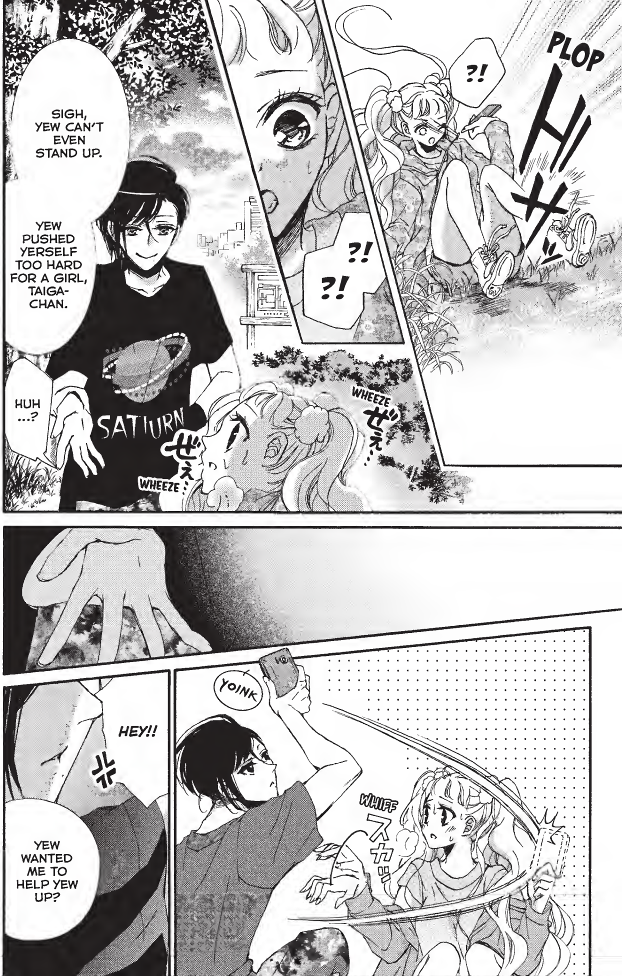

SAY, TAIGA-CHAN.

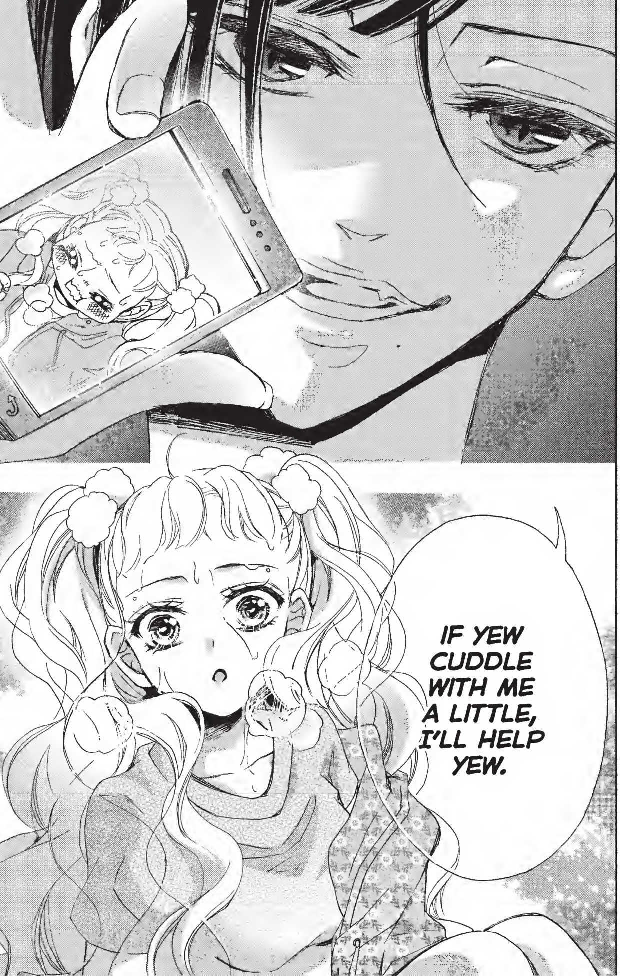

SHE'S ONLY WATCHING AHEAD OF HER...
ぜぇっ
WHEEZE
ぜぇっ
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
ぜぇ
WHEEZE
ぜぇぇぇ
SNAP
?!
SNAP
カシャ
WHA?!
A- ANRI?!
SNAP
カシャカシャ
SNAP
SNAP
カシャ
WHAT THE?!
YER FACE IS JUST PERFECT!
WHADDA YEW THINK KUROGANE'D SAY IF HE SAW THIS?
HUH?!
SNAP
カシャ
WHOA! AHA HA HA HA HA HA! ♥
ZOOM

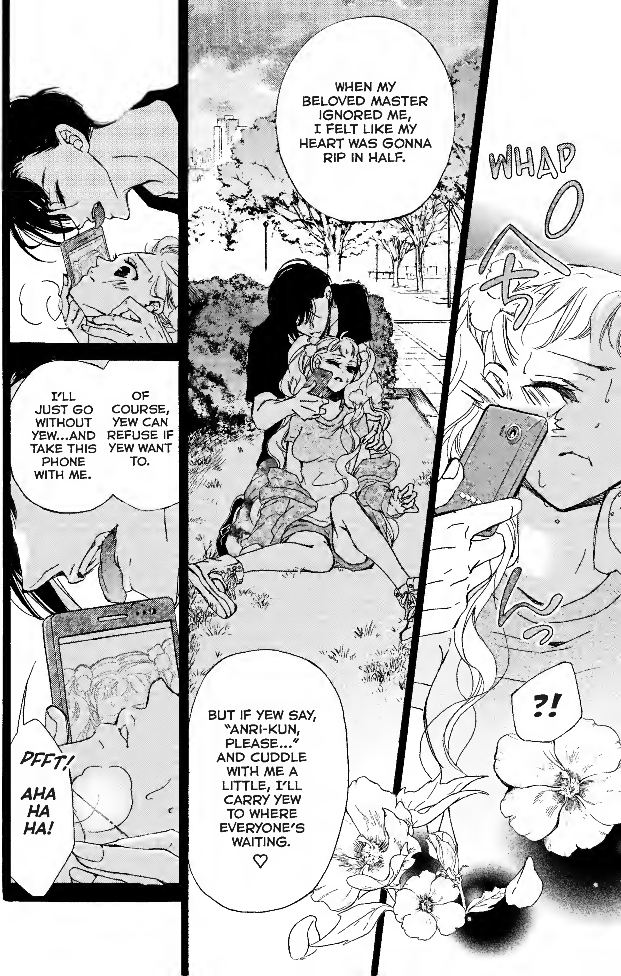

NOT SO FAST, ANRI!
THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN.
Get back here!
HONK HONK HONK HONK
プープープープー
HOW CUTE! EVEN YER FOOTSTEPS SOUND SOFT.
AAAA-ARGH!!
ANRI'S GOT SOME PROBLEMS TOO IF HE'S STILL AT IT WHEN SHE'S ALREADY THIS MAD AT HIM...
Where are they going?
BUT TAIGA TAKES HIM WAY TOO SERIOUSLY.
ISN'T THAT WHY?
HUH?

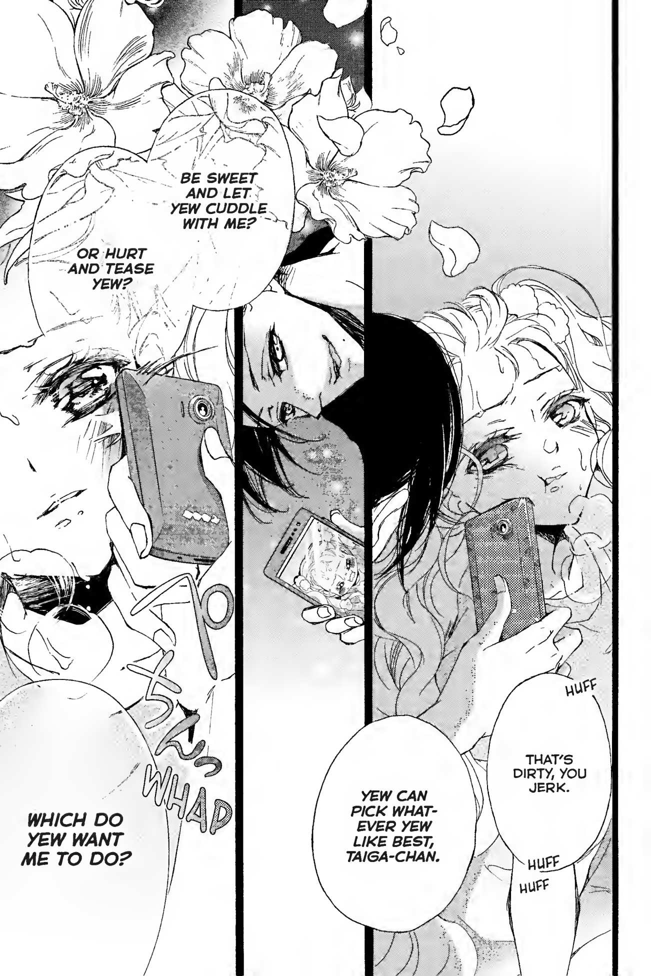

TAIGA...
DOESN'T BOTHER WITH SHALLOW, SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT STUFF.
SHE'S ALWAYS SERIOUS ABOUT EVERYTHING.
ANRI MAY HAVE BEEN HALF PLAYING...
"I'M THE ONLY ONE ALLOWED TO THROW HIM OUT!!"
BUT I BET THE OTHER HALF OF HIM WAS ACTUALLY HAPPY.
GET...
BACK HEREEE!!
WHUMP

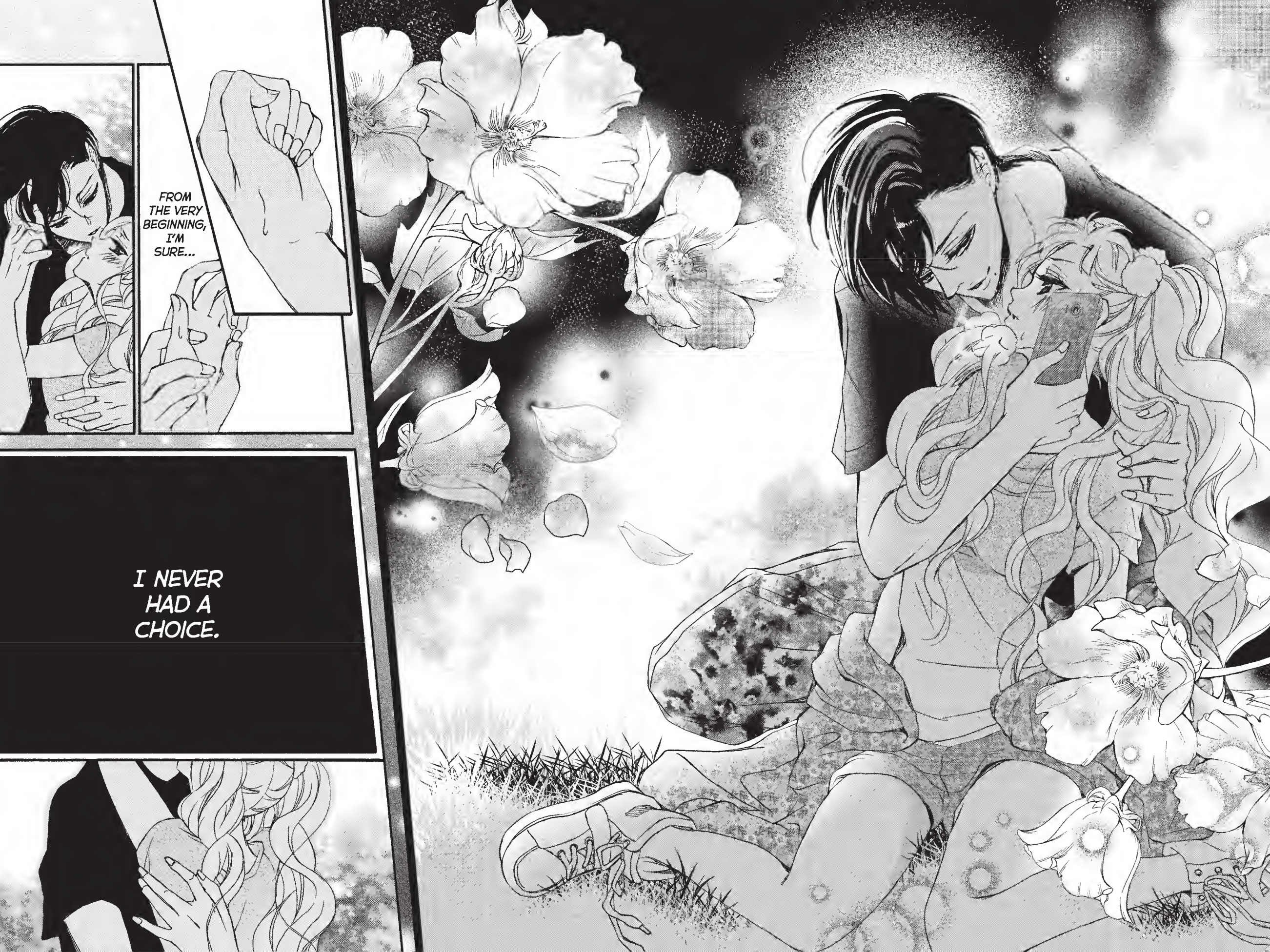

WHUMP
はっ
WOO-HOO!
ゼッ WHEEZE
ゼッ WHEEZE
LOOK AT THAT! I DID IT! YOU'RE NOT GONNA PLAY ANY MORE PRANKS ON ME!
And my body's back to normal too!
UGH...
WHAT AN AWFUL WAY TO CELEBRATE AFTER HOW MUCH YEW IGNORED ME...
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!
Say whatever you like!
FLAIL FLAIL
HM-HMM!
STAGGER
グラッ
HUH...?

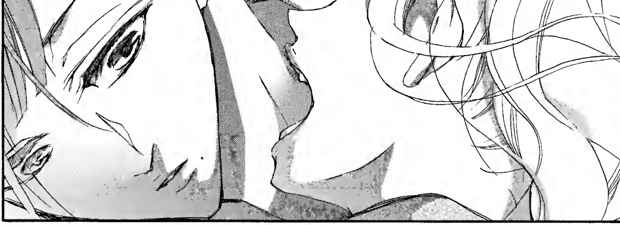

PLOP
?!
?!
?!
SIGH, YEW CAN'T EVEN STAND UP.
YEW PUSHED YERSELF TOO HARD FOR A GIRL, TAIGA-CHAN.
WHEEZE
ぜぇ…
SATURN
HUH …?
ぜぇ…
WHEEZE
YOINK
WHIFF
スカッ
HEY!!
YEW WANTED ME TO HELP YEW UP?

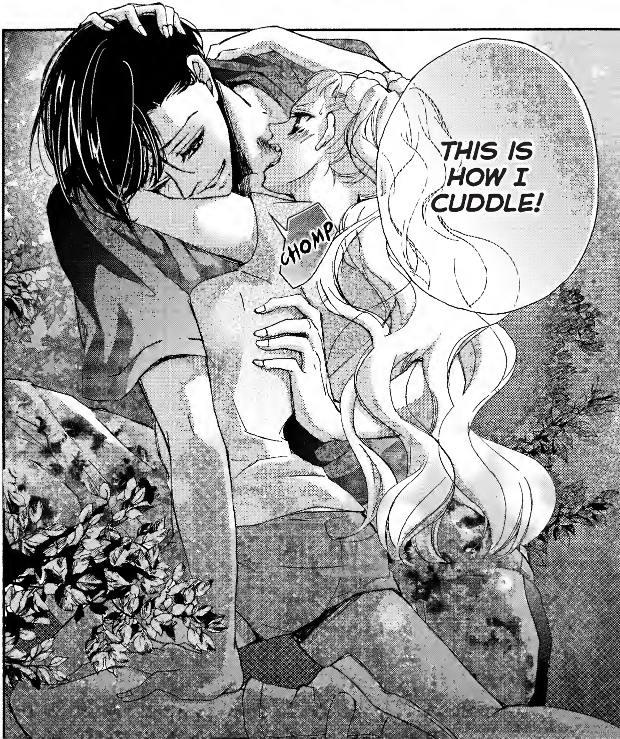

IF YEW CUDDLE WITH ME A LITTLE, I'LL HELP YEW.

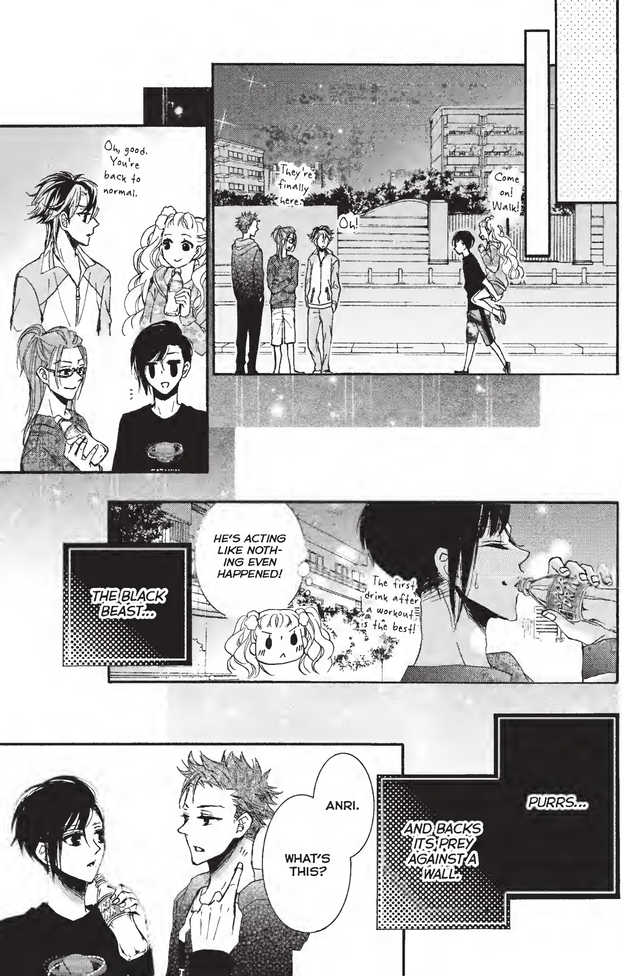

WHAP
?!
WHEN MY BELOVED MASTER IGNORED ME, I FELT LIKE MY HEART WAS GONNA RIP IN HALF.
BUT IF YEW SAY, "ANRI-KUN, PLEASE..." AND CUDDLE WITH ME A LITTLE, I'LL CARRY YEW TO WHERE EVERYONE'S WAITING. ♡
OF COURSE, YEW CAN REFUSE IF YEW WANT TO.
I'LL JUST GO WITHOUT YEW...AND TAKE THIS PHONE WITH ME.
PFFT!
AHA HA HA!

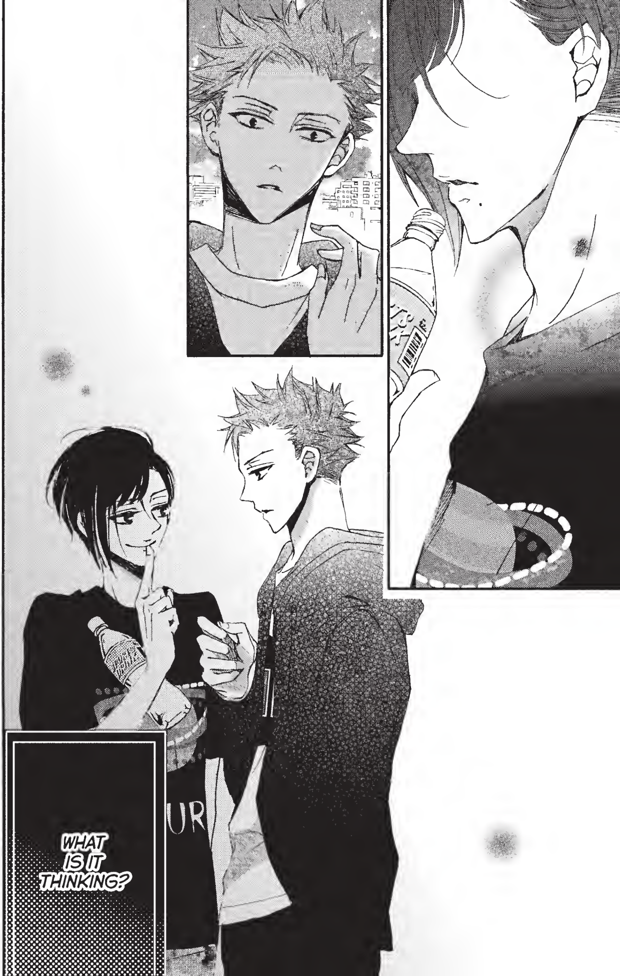

BE SWEET AND LET YEW CUDDLE WITH ME?
OR HURT AND TEASE YEW?
WHICH DO YEW WANT ME TO DO?
WHAP
YEW CAN PICK WHATEVER YEW LIKE BEST, TAIGA-CHAN.
HUFF
THAT'S DIRTY, YOU JERK.
HUFF
HUFF


FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I'M SURE...
I NEVER HAD A CHOICE.




THIS IS HOW I CUDDLE!
CHOMP

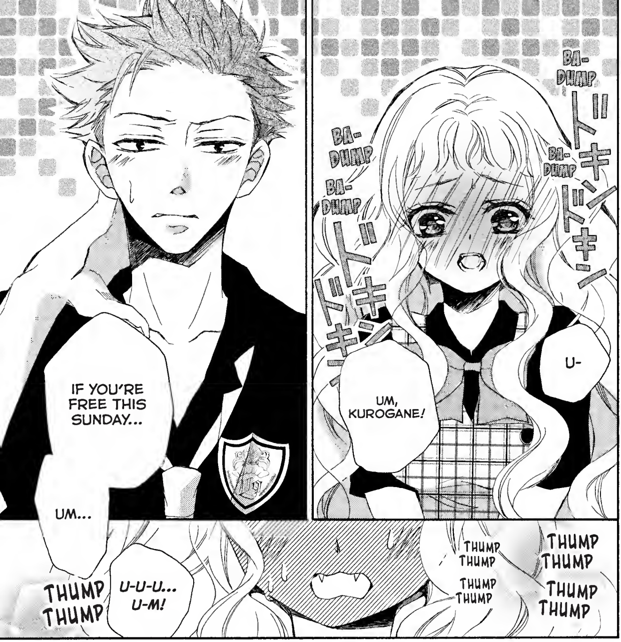

Come on! Walk!
They're finally here.
Oh!
Oh, good. You're back to normal.
The first drink after a workout is the best!
HE'S ACTING LIKE NOTHING EVEN HAPPENED!
THE BLACK BEAST...
PURRS...
AND BACKS ITS PREY AGAINST A WALL.
ANRI.
WHAT'S THIS?


WHAT IS IT THINKING?

TRAP 11

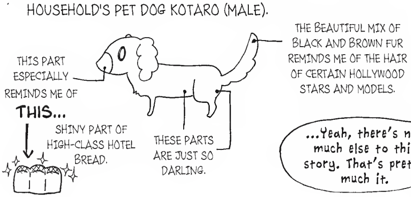
Secrets at the Party

Black Panther and Sweet 16

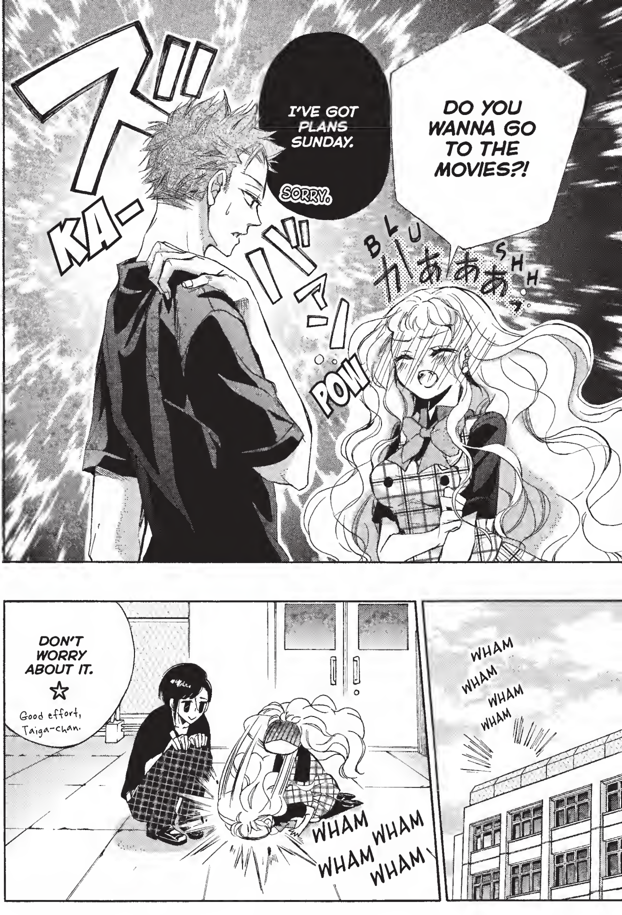

BA-DUMP
ドキン
BA-DUMP
ドキン
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
ドキドキ
U-
UM, KUROGANE!
IF YOU'RE FREE THIS SUNDAY...
UM...
THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP
U-U-U... U-M!
THUMP THUMP

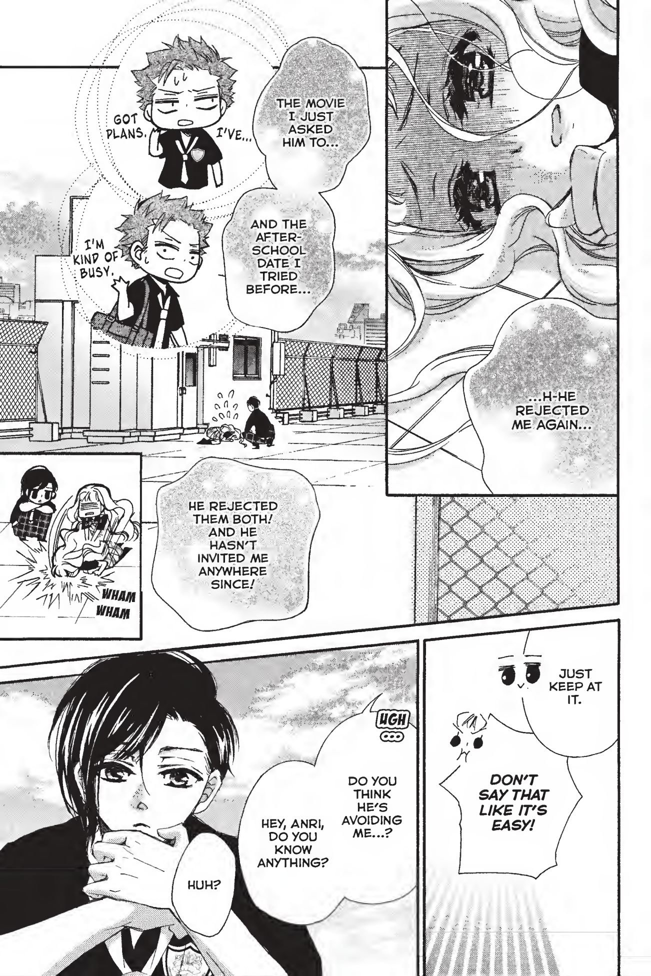
4 CONTINUED

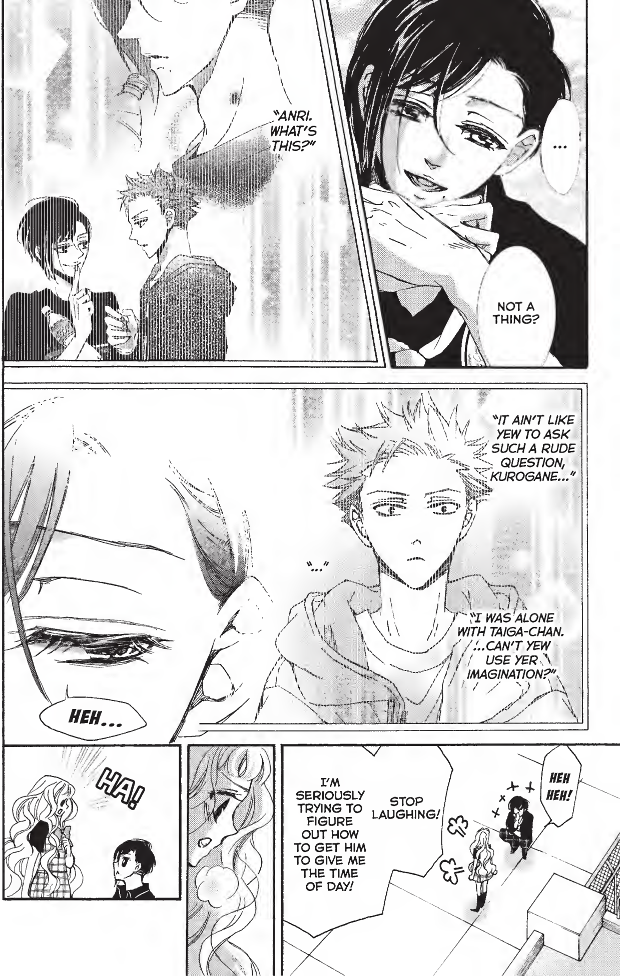
"THAT REMINDS ME"...AND WHAT REMINDS ME OF THINGS IS THE TORIUMI HOUSEHOLD'S PET DOG KOTARO (MALE).

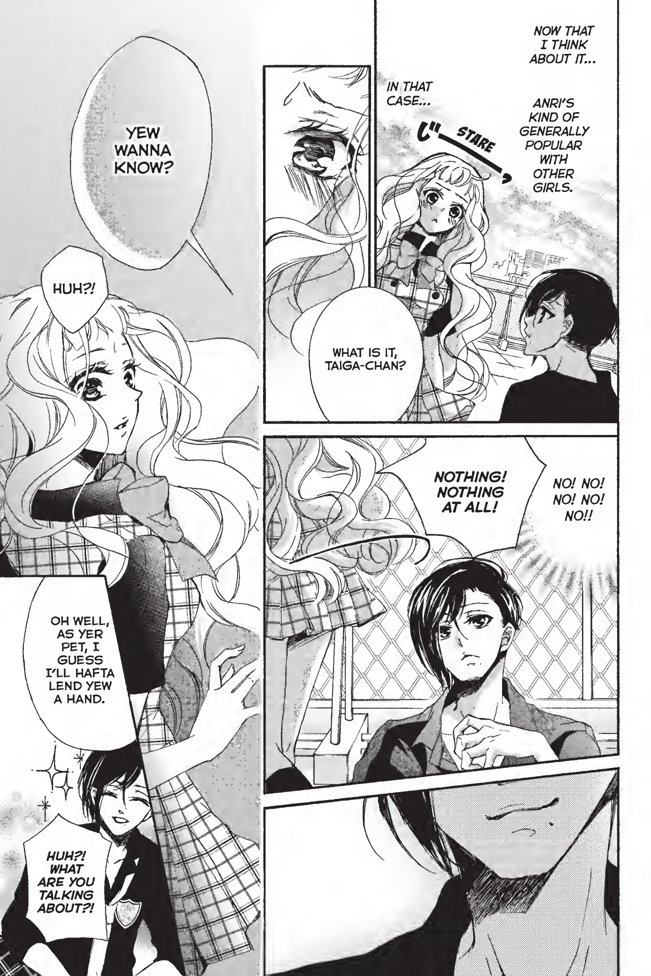

THIS PART ESPECIALLY REMINDS ME OF THIS...
SHINY PART OF HIGH-CLASS HOTEL BREAD.
THESE PARTS ARE JUST SO DARLING.
THE BEAUTIFUL MIX OF BLACK AND BROWN FUR REMINDS ME OF THE HAIR OF CERTAIN HOLLYWOOD STARS AND MODELS.

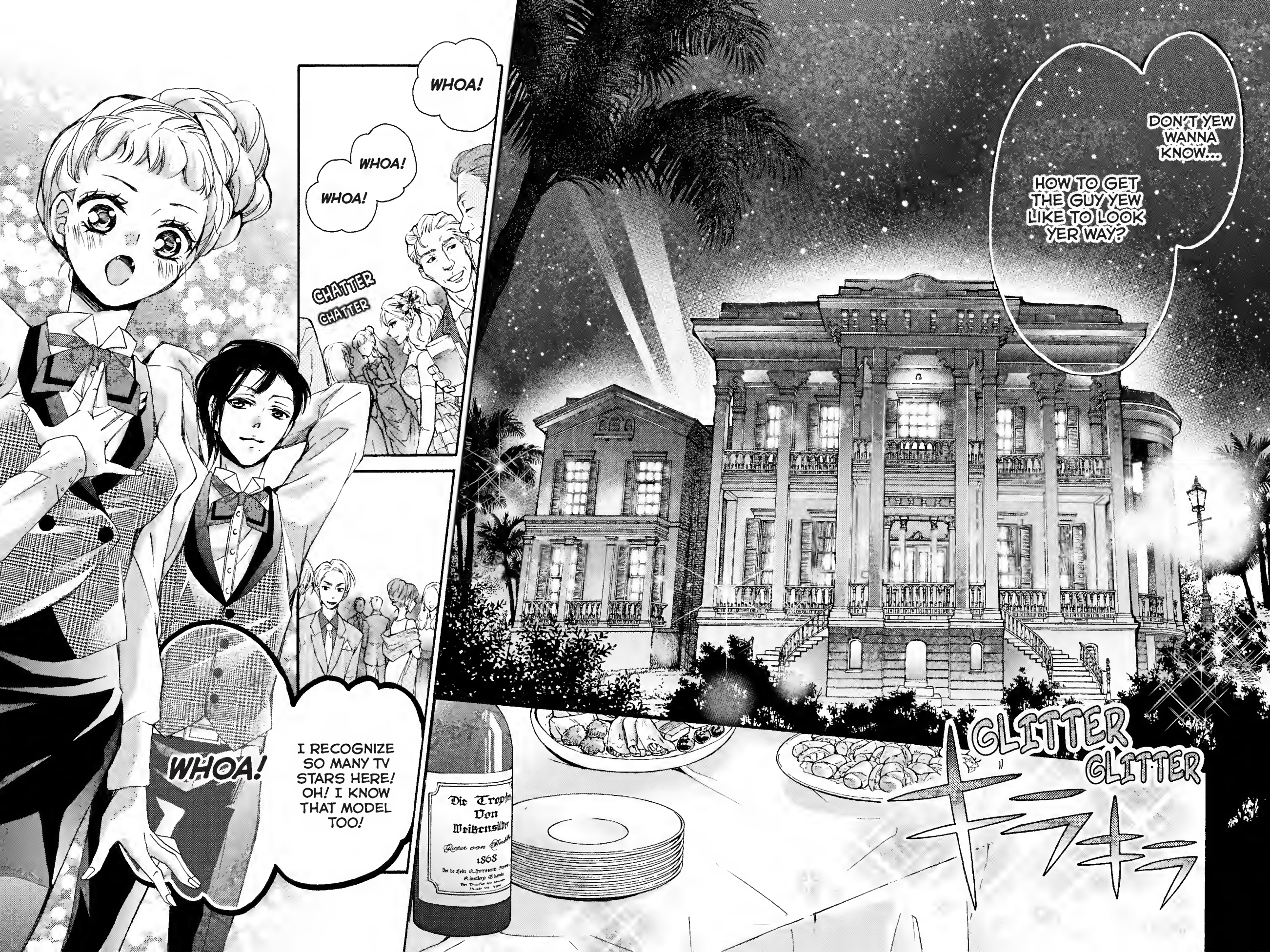
...Yeah, there's not much else to this story. That's pretty much it.

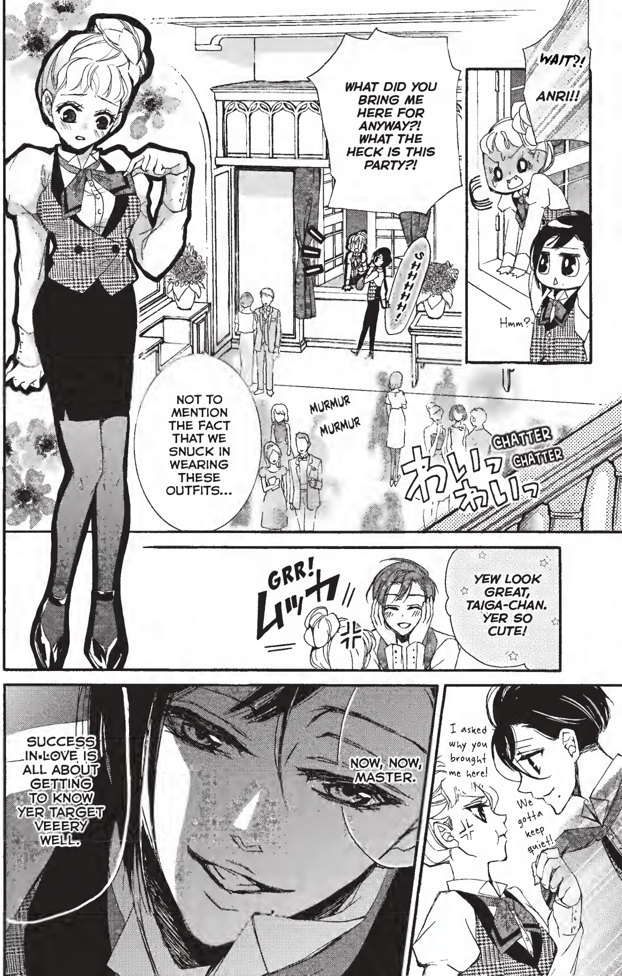

DO YOU WANNA GO TO THE MOVIES?!
かあああっ
BLUSHH
I'VE GOT PLANS SUNDAY.
SORRY.
ズ
KA-
バァー
POW
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. ☆
Good effort, Taiga-chan.
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM

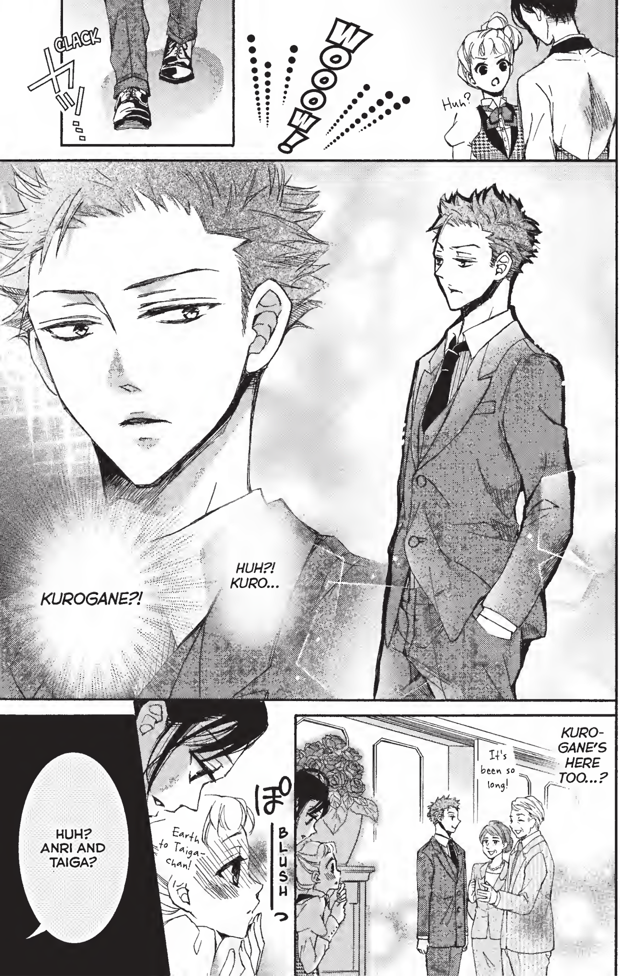

...H-HE REJECTED ME AGAIN...
THE MOVIE I JUST ASKED HIM TO...
I'VE...
GOT PLANS.
AND THE AFTER-SCHOOL DATE I TRIED BEFORE...
I'M KIND OF BUSY.
HE REJECTED THEM BOTH! AND HE HASN'T INVITED ME ANYWHERE SINCE!
WHAM
WHAM
JUST KEEP AT IT.
DON'T SAY THAT LIKE IT'S EASY!
UGH...
DO YOU THINK HE'S AVOIDING ME...?
HEY, ANRI, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
HUH?

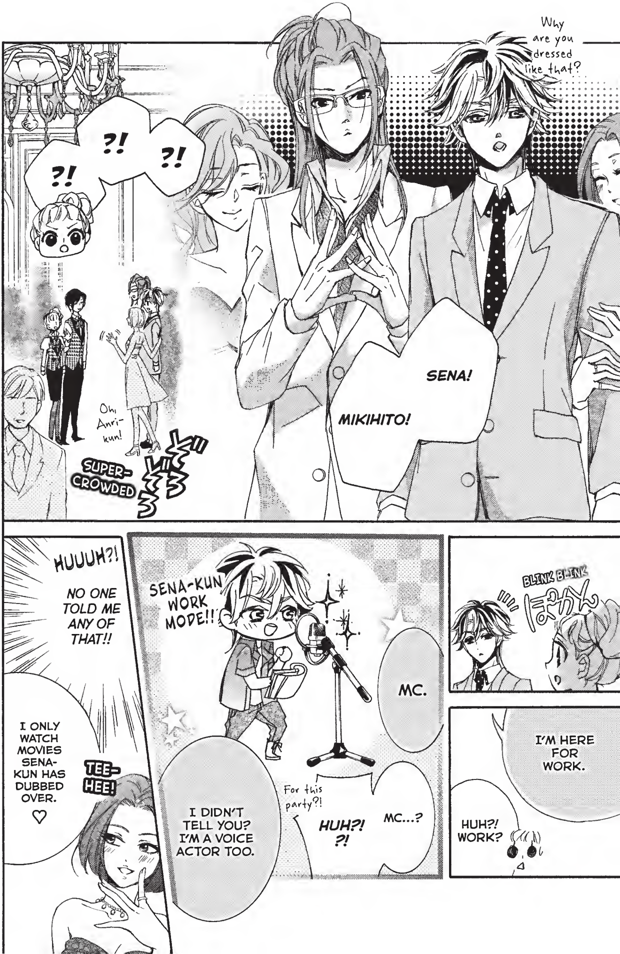

...
NOT A THING?
"ANRI. WHAT'S THIS?"
"IT AIN'T LIKE YEW TO ASK SUCH A RUDE QUESTION, KUROGANE..."
"..."
"I WAS ALONE WITH TAIGA-CHAN. ...CAN'T YEW USE YER IMAGINATION?"
HEH...
HEH HEH!
STOP LAUGHING!
I'M SERIOUSLY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET HIM TO GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY!
HA!

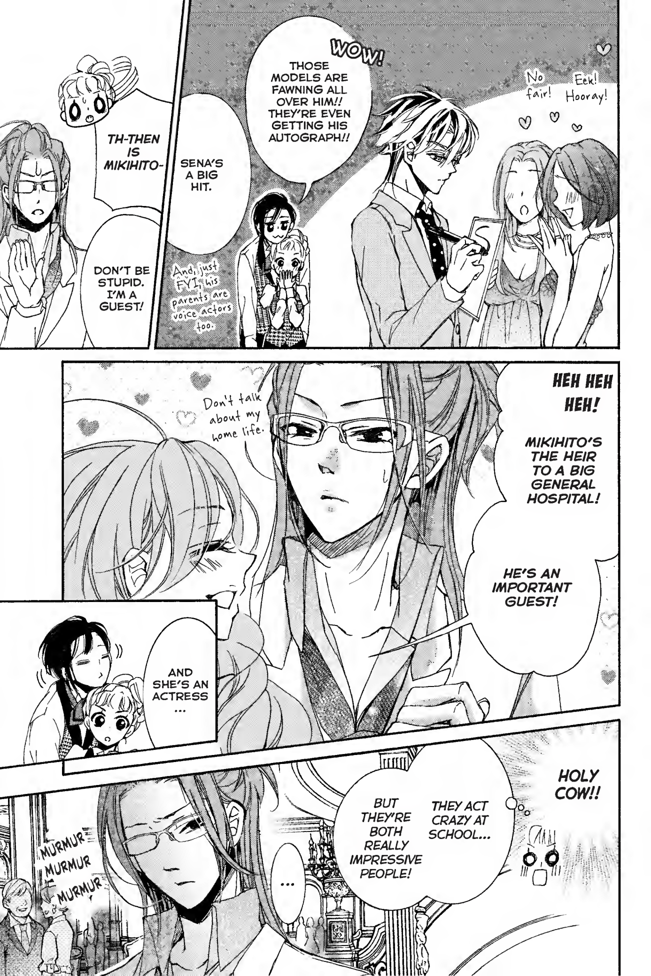

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
ANRI'S KIND OF GENERALLY POPULAR WITH OTHER GIRLS.
IN THAT CASE...
STARE
WHAT IS IT, TAIGA-CHAN?
NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!!
NOTHING! NOTHING AT ALL!
YEW WANNA KNOW?
HUH?!
OH WELL, AS YER PET, I GUESS I'LL HAFTA LEND YEW A HAND.
HUH?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

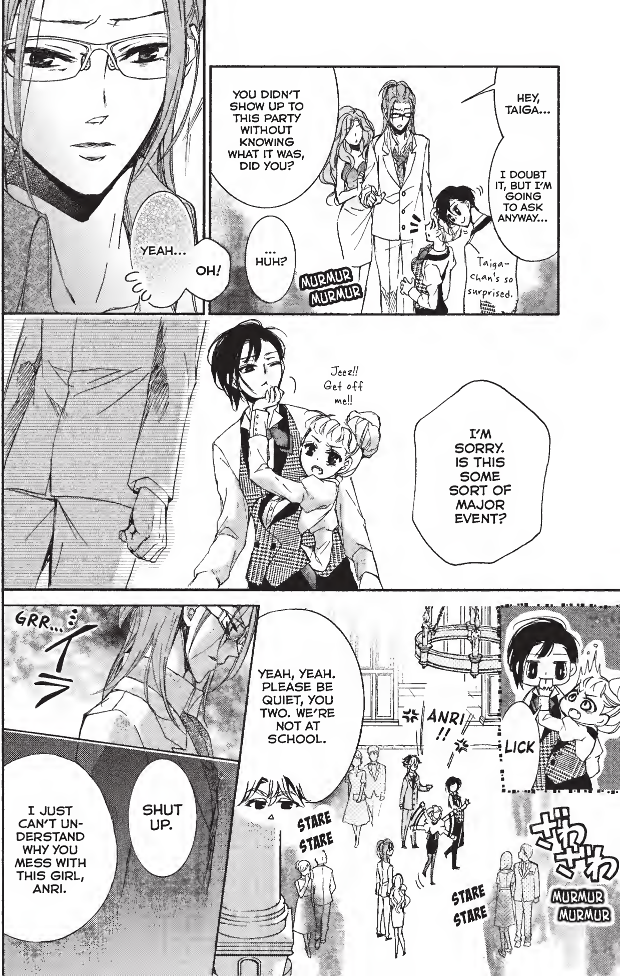

DON'T YEW WANNA KNOW...
HOW TO GET THE GUY YEW LIKE TO LOOK YER WAY?
GLITTER GLITTER
キラキラ
Die Tropfen Von Weißensilber 1868
WHOA!
WHOA!
WHOA!
CHATTER CHATTER
WHOA!
I RECOGNIZE SO MANY TV STARS HERE! OH! I KNOW THAT MODEL TOO!

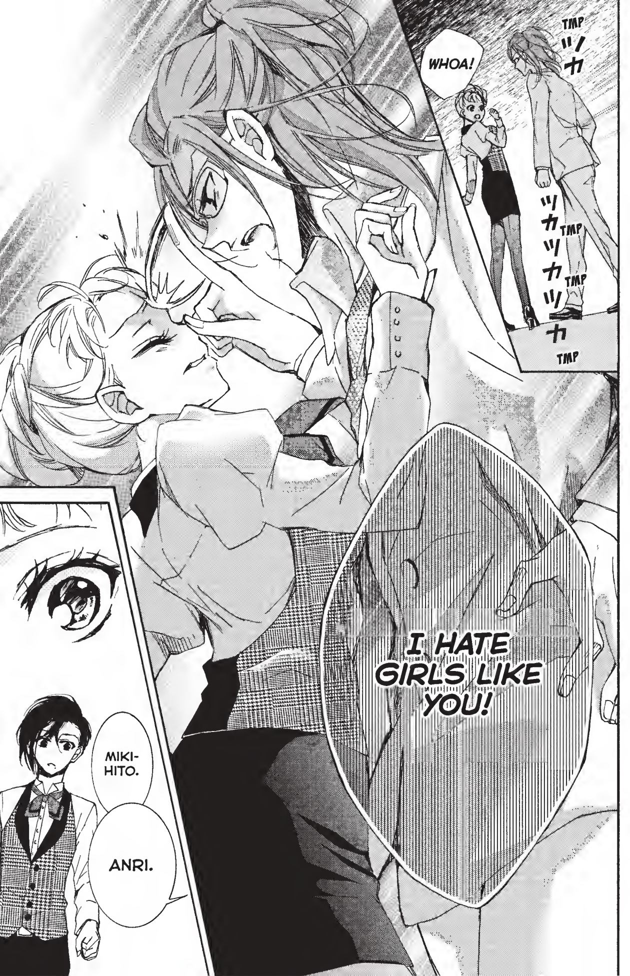

WAIT?!
ANRI!!!
Hmm?
WHAT DID YOU BRING ME HERE FOR ANYWAY?! WHAT THE HECK IS THIS PARTY?!
SHHHHHH!
CHATTER CHATTER
わいっ わいっ
MURMUR MURMUR
NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT WE SNUCK IN WEARING THESE OUTFITS...
YEW LOOK GREAT, TAIGA-CHAN. YER SO CUTE!
GRR!
ムッカ
I asked why you brought me here!
We gotta keep quiet!!
NOW, NOW, MASTER.
SUCCESS IN LOVE IS ALL ABOUT GETTING TO KNOW YER TARGET VEEERY WELL.

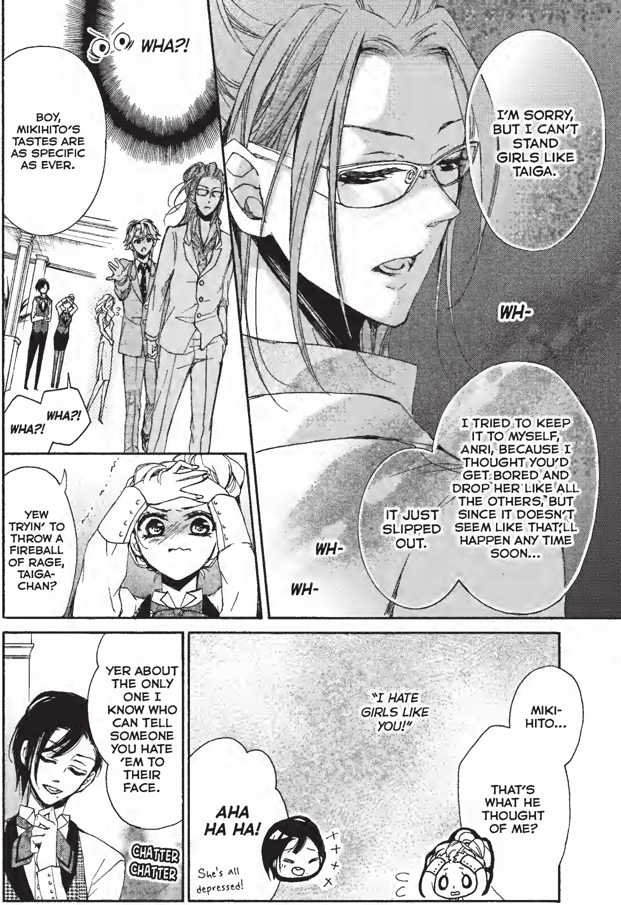

Huh?
WOOOOW!
CLACK
HUH?! KURO...
KUROGANE?!
KURO-GANE'S HERE TOO...?
It's been so long!
ぽ
BLUSH
Earth to Taiga-chan!
HUH? ANRI AND TAIGA?

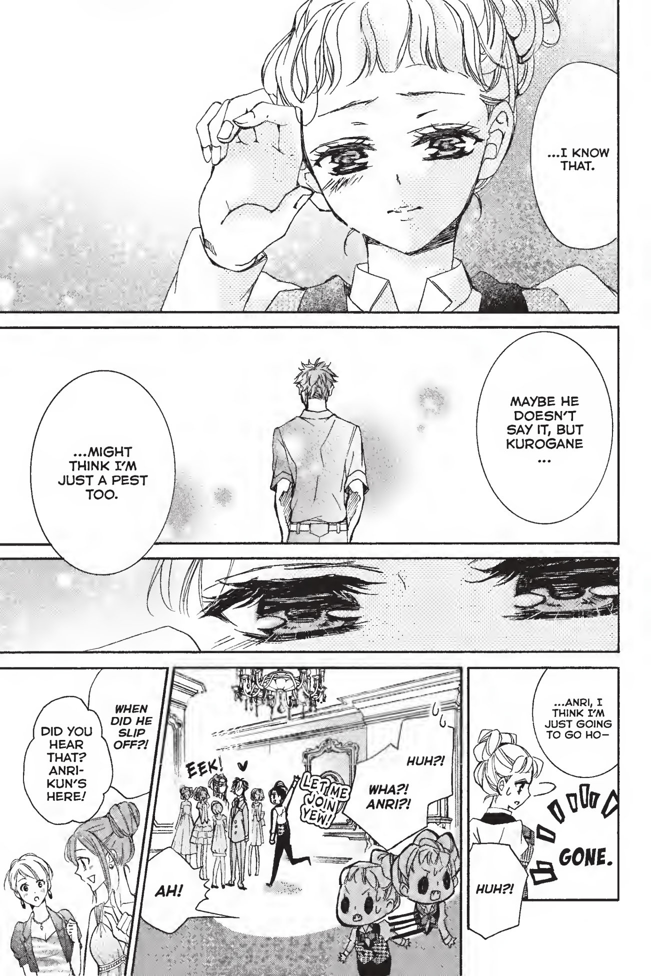

Why are you dressed like that?
SENA!
MIKIHITO!
?!
?!
?!
Oh, Anri-kun!
SUPER-CROWDED
BLINK BLINK
I'M HERE FOR WORK.
HUH?! WORK?
MC.
SENA-KUN WORK MODE!!
MC...?
HUH?! ?!
For this party?!
I DIDN'T TELL YOU? I'M A VOICE ACTOR TOO.
HUUUH?!
NO ONE TOLD ME ANY OF THAT!!
I ONLY WATCH MOVIES SENA-KUN HAS DUBBED OVER. ♡
TEE-HEE!

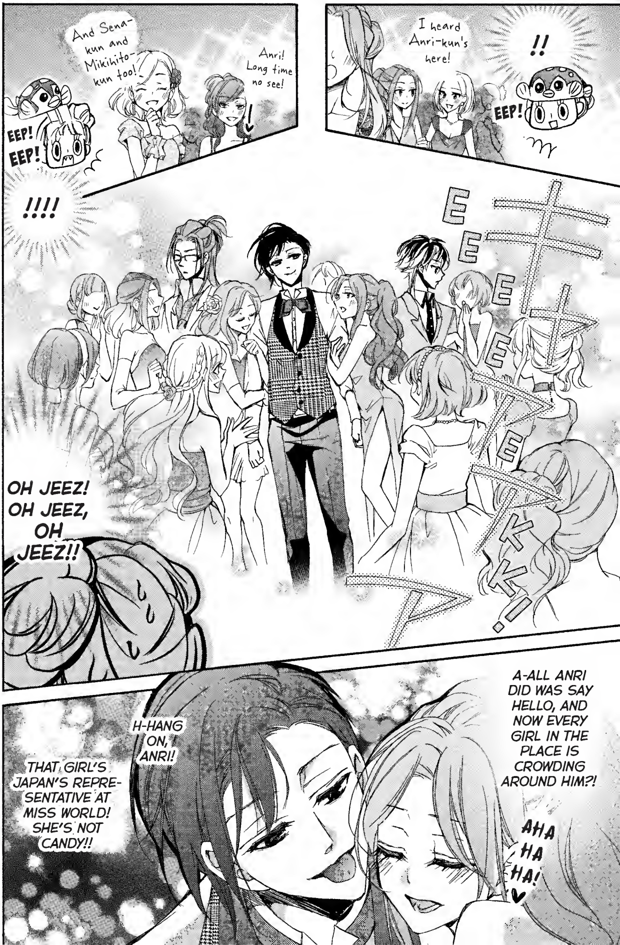

WOW!
THOSE MODELS ARE FAWNING ALL OVER HIM!! THEY'RE EVEN GETTING HIS AUTOGRAPH!!
No fair!
Eek! Hooray!
SENA'S A BIG HIT.
And, just FYI, his parents are voice actors too.
TH-THEN IS MIKIHITO-
DON'T BE STUPID. I'M A GUEST!
HEH HEH HEH!
MIKIHITO'S THE HEIR TO A BIG GENERAL HOSPITAL!
HE'S AN IMPORTANT GUEST!
Don't talk about my home life.
AND SHE'S AN ACTRESS ...
HOLY COW!!
THEY ACT CRAZY AT SCHOOL...
BUT THEY'RE BOTH REALLY IMPRESSIVE PEOPLE!
...
MURMUR MURMUR MURMUR

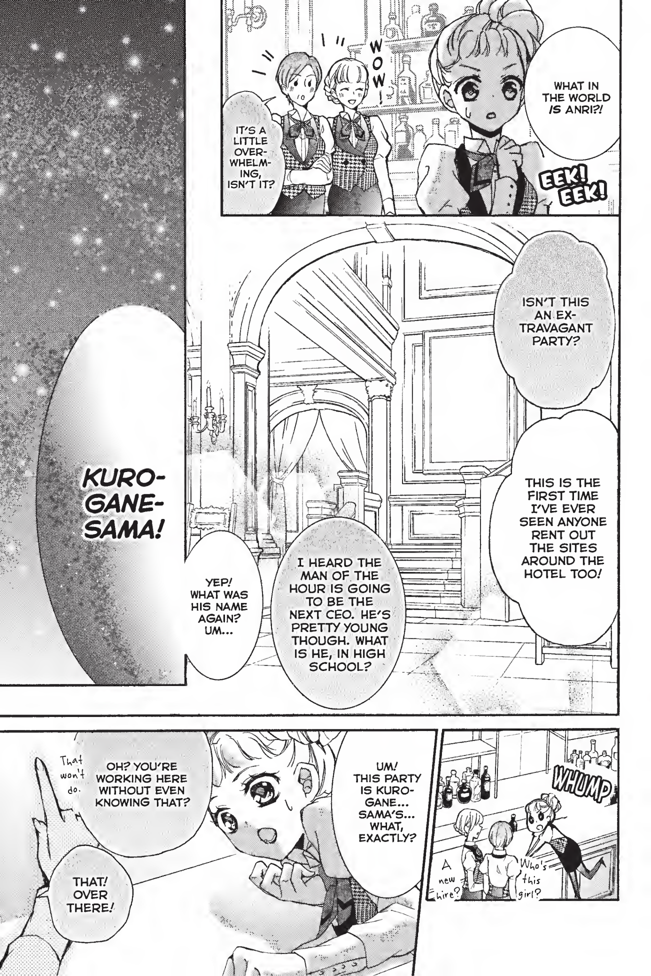

HEY, TAIGA...
I DOUBT IT, BUT I'M GOING TO ASK ANYWAY...
Taiga-chan's so surprised.
YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP TO THIS PARTY WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT WAS, DID YOU?
... HUH?
MURMUR MURMUR
YEAH...
OH!
I'M SORRY. IS THIS SOME SORT OF MAJOR EVENT?
Jeez!! Get off me!!
LICK
ざわざわ
MURMUR MURMUR
STARE STARE
ANRI!!
STARE STARE
YEAH, YEAH. PLEASE BE QUIET, YOU TWO. WE'RE NOT AT SCHOOL.
GRR...
イラ
SHUT UP.
I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU MESS WITH THIS GIRL, ANRI.

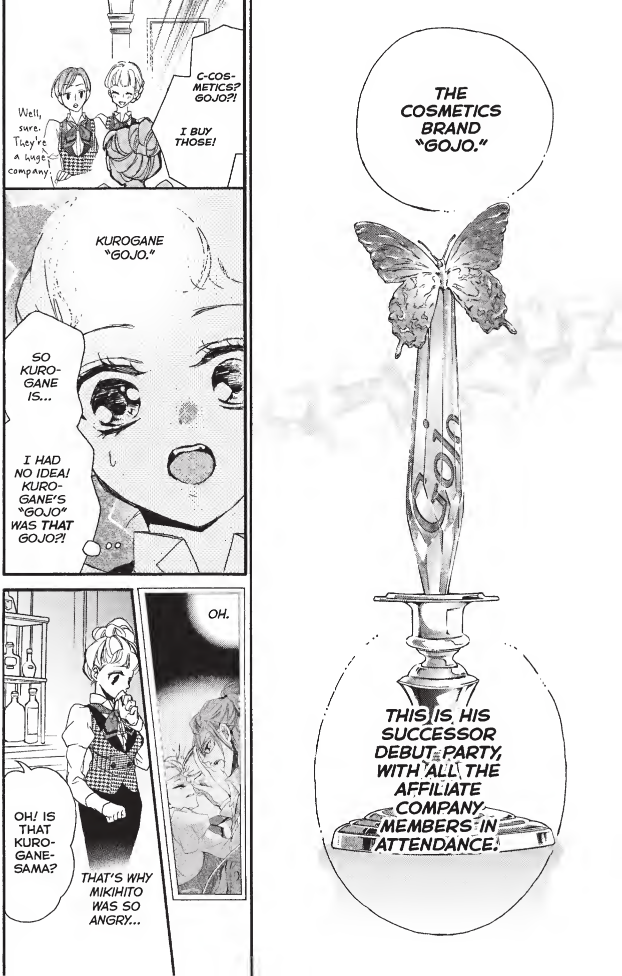

TMP
ツカ
WHOA!
ツカ
TMP
ツカ
TMP
ツカ
TMP
I HATE GIRLS LIKE YOU!
MIKI-HITO.
ANRI.

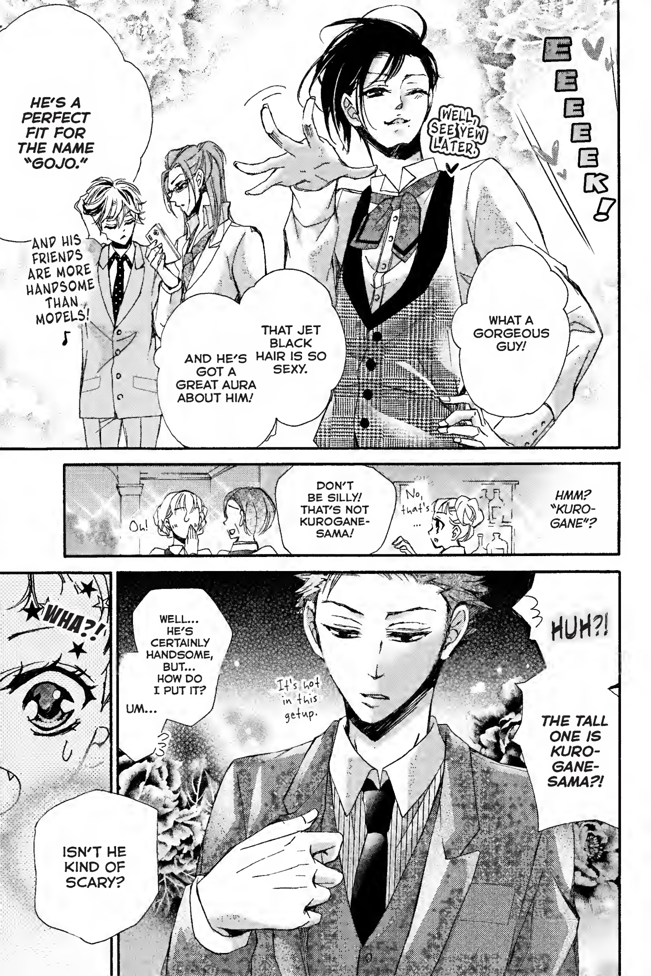

I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T STAND GIRLS LIKE TAIGA.
WH-
I TRIED TO KEEP IT TO MYSELF, ANRI, BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU'D GET BORED AND DROP HER LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, BUT SINCE IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THAT'LL HAPPEN ANY TIME SOON...
IT JUST SLIPPED OUT.
WH-
WH-
WHA?!
BOY, MIKIHITO'S TASTES ARE AS SPECIFIC AS EVER.
WHA?!
WHA?!
YEW TRYIN' TO THROW A FIREBALL OF RAGE, TAIGA-CHAN?
MIKI-HITO...
THAT'S WHAT HE THOUGHT OF ME?
"I HATE GIRLS LIKE YOU!"
AHA HA HA!
She's all depressed!
YER ABOUT THE ONLY ONE I KNOW WHO CAN TELL SOMEONE YOU HATE 'EM TO THEIR FACE.
CHATTER CHATTER

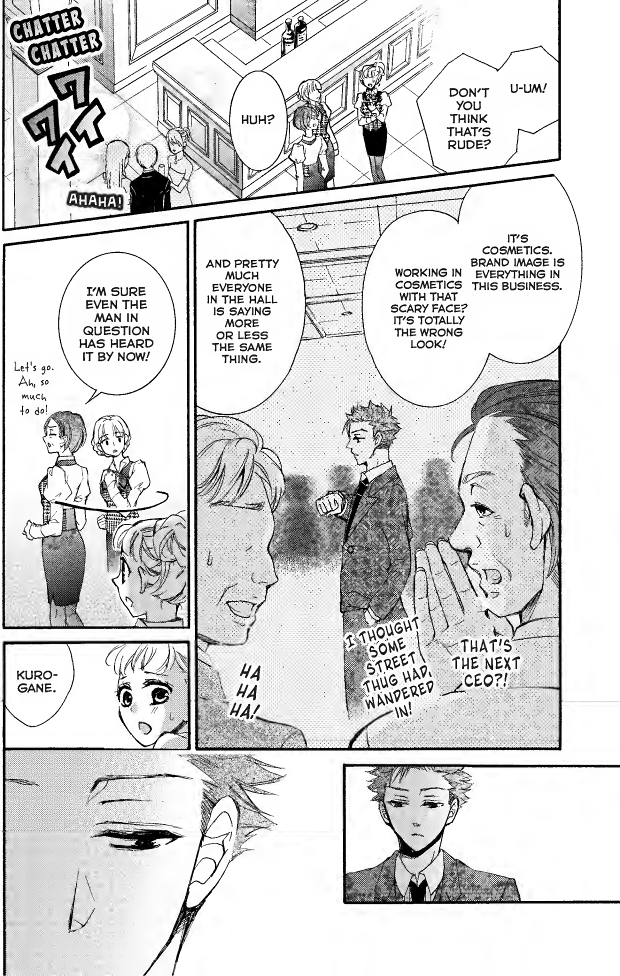

...I KNOW THAT.
MAYBE HE DOESN'T SAY IT, BUT KUROGANE ...
...MIGHT THINK I'M JUST A PEST TOO.
...ANRI, I THINK I'M JUST GOING TO GO HO—
GONE.
HUH?!
HUH?!
WHA?! ANRI?!
LET ME JOIN YEW!
EEK! ♥
AH!
WHEN DID HE SLIP OFF?!
DID YOU HEAR THAT? ANRI-KUN'S HERE!


I heard Anri-kun's here!
!!
EEP!
Anri! Long time no see!
And Sena-kun and Mikihito-kun too!
EEP! EEP!
!!!!
EEEEEKK!
OH JEEZ! OH JEEZ, OH JEEZ!!
A-ALL ANRI DID WAS SAY HELLO, AND NOW EVERY GIRL IN THE PLACE IS CROWDING AROUND HIM?!
AHA HA HA! ♥
H-HANG ON, ANRI!
THAT GIRL'S JAPAN'S REPRESENTATIVE AT MISS WORLD! SHE'S NOT CANDY!!


WHAT IN THE WORLD IS ANRI?!
EEK! EEK!
WOW!
IT'S A LITTLE OVERWHELMING, ISN'T IT?
ISN'T THIS AN EXTRAVAGANT PARTY?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN ANYONE RENT OUT THE SITES AROUND THE HOTEL TOO!
I HEARD THE MAN OF THE HOUR IS GOING TO BE THE NEXT CEO. HE'S PRETTY YOUNG THOUGH. WHAT IS HE, IN HIGH SCHOOL?
YEP! WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN? UM...
KUROGANE-SAMA!
WHUMP
Who's this girl?
A new hire?
UM! THIS PARTY IS KUROGANE... SAMA'S... WHAT, EXACTLY?
OH? YOU'RE WORKING HERE WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING THAT?
That won't do.
THAT! OVER THERE!


THE COSMETICS BRAND "GOJO."
Gojo
THIS IS HIS SUCCESSOR DEBUT PARTY, WITH ALL THE AFFILIATE COMPANY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE.
C-COSMETICS? GOJO?!
I BUY THOSE!
Well, sure. They're a huge company.
KUROGANE "GOJO."
SO KUROGANE IS...
I HAD NO IDEA! KUROGANE'S "GOJO" WAS THAT GOJO?!
OH.
OH! IS THAT KUROGANE-SAMA?
THAT'S WHY MIKIHITO WAS SO ANGRY...


EEEEEK!
WELL, SEE YEW LATER.
WHAT A GORGEOUS GUY!
THAT JET BLACK HAIR IS SO SEXY.
AND HE'S GOT A GREAT AURA ABOUT HIM!
HE'S A PERFECT FIT FOR THE NAME "GOJO."
AND HIS FRIENDS ARE MORE HANDSOME THAN MODELS! ♪
HMM? "KURO-GANE"?
No, that's...
DON'T BE SILLY! THAT'S NOT KUROGANE-SAMA!
Oh!
HUH?!
THE TALL ONE IS KURO-GANE-SAMA?!
It's hot in this getup.
WELL... HE'S CERTAINLY HANDSOME, BUT... HOW DO I PUT IT?
UM...
WHA?!
ISN'T HE KIND OF SCARY?


U-UM!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S RUDE?
HUH?
CHATTER CHATTER
ワイワイ
AHAHA!
IT'S COSMETICS. BRAND IMAGE IS EVERYTHING IN THIS BUSINESS.
WORKING IN COSMETICS WITH THAT SCARY FACE? IT'S TOTALLY THE WRONG LOOK!
AND PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE IN THE HALL IS SAYING MORE OR LESS THE SAME THING.
THAT'S THE NEXT CEO?!
I THOUGHT SOME STREET THUG HAD WANDERED IN!
HA HA HA!
I'M SURE EVEN THE MAN IN QUESTION HAS HEARD IT BY NOW!
Let's go. Ah, so much to do!
KURO-GANE.

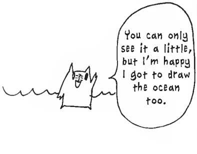
5 ABOUT THE COVER PICTURE FOR CHAPTER 11

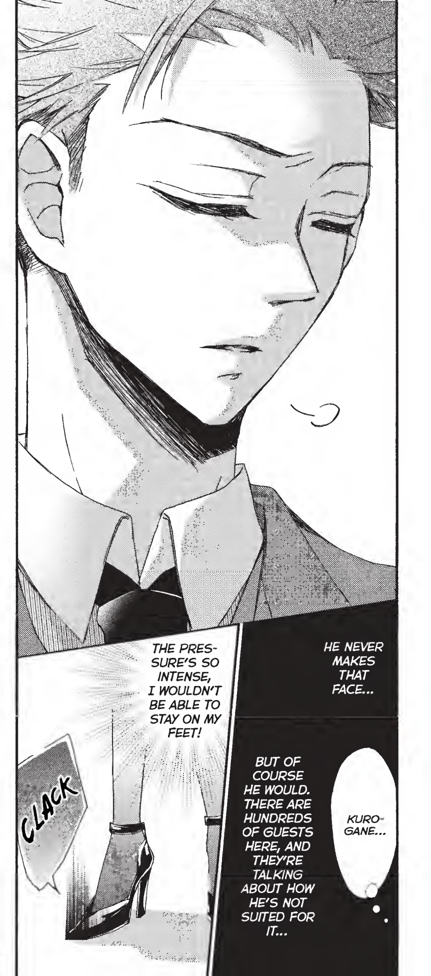
I WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO A COVER PICTURE FOR THIS CHAPTER, #11, IN COLOR, BUT IT TOOK LONGER THAN USUAL. PARTLY BECAUSE THERE WERE FIVE CHARACTERS TO DRAW, BUT ALSO BECAUSE I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT DRAW NIPPLES.

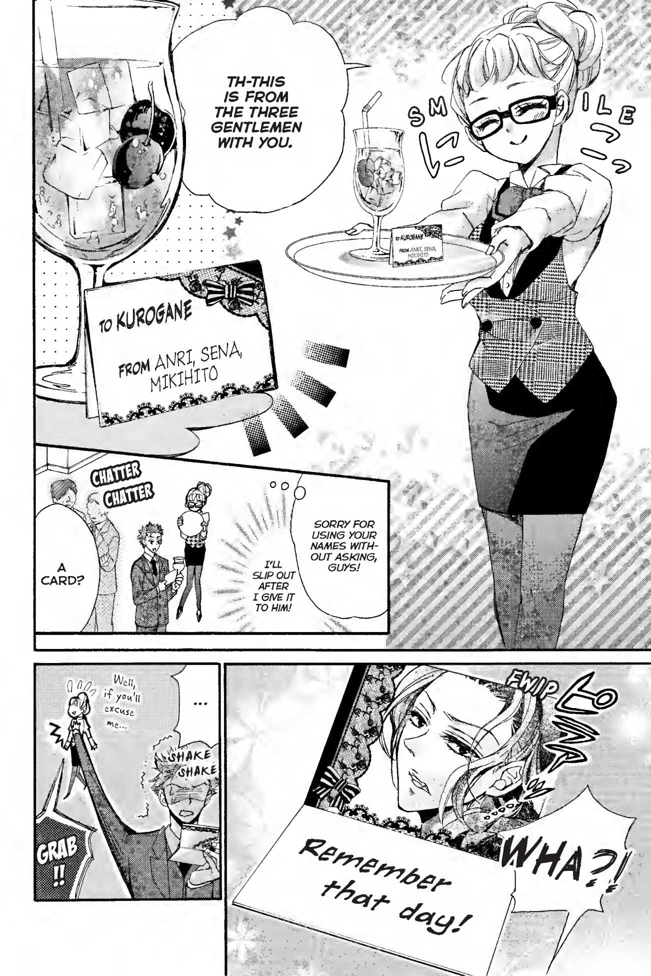
If I did? It'd tick off some people really bad! The higher-ups at the company!! At my editor!!!!
HA HA
Toriumi-san!

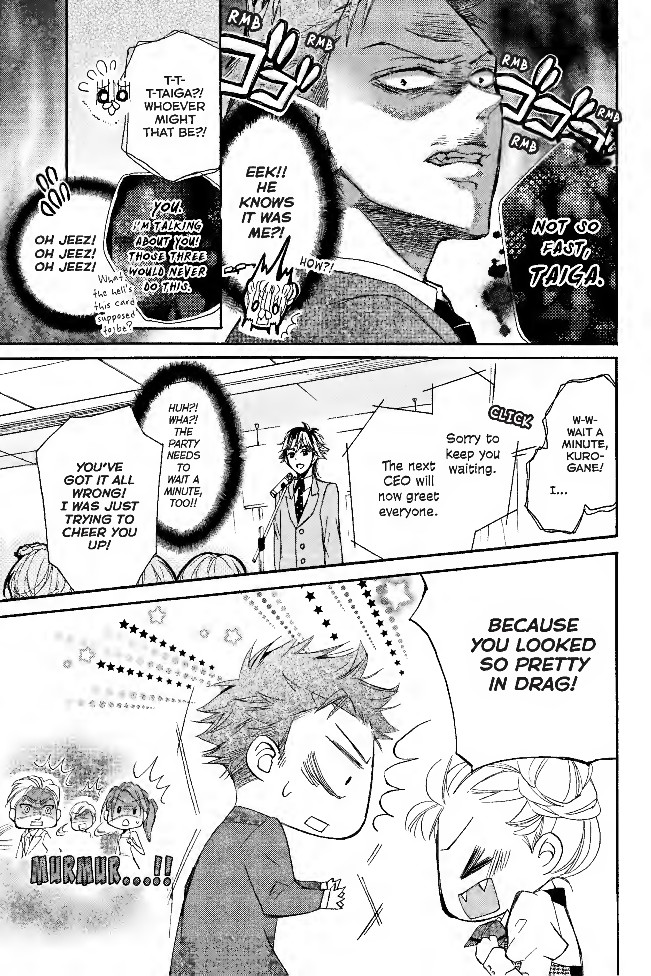
AND, NATURALLY, I'D GET YELLED AT TOO.

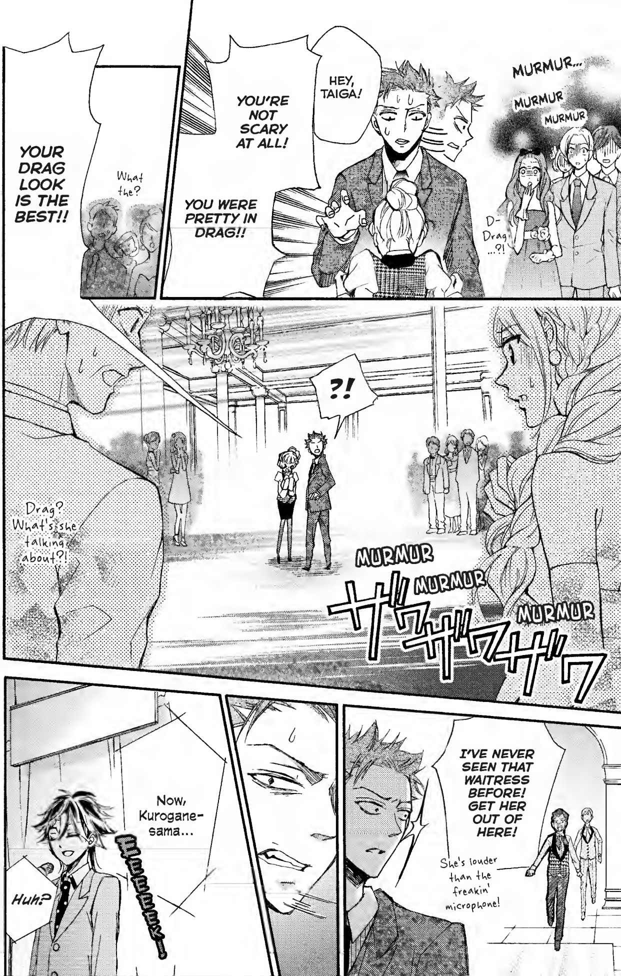
BUT I WANTED TO DRAW SWIMSUITS. AND I WANTED TO MAKE IT A LITTLE REALISTIC. ...SO IT TURNED INTO THE CURRENT VERSION.

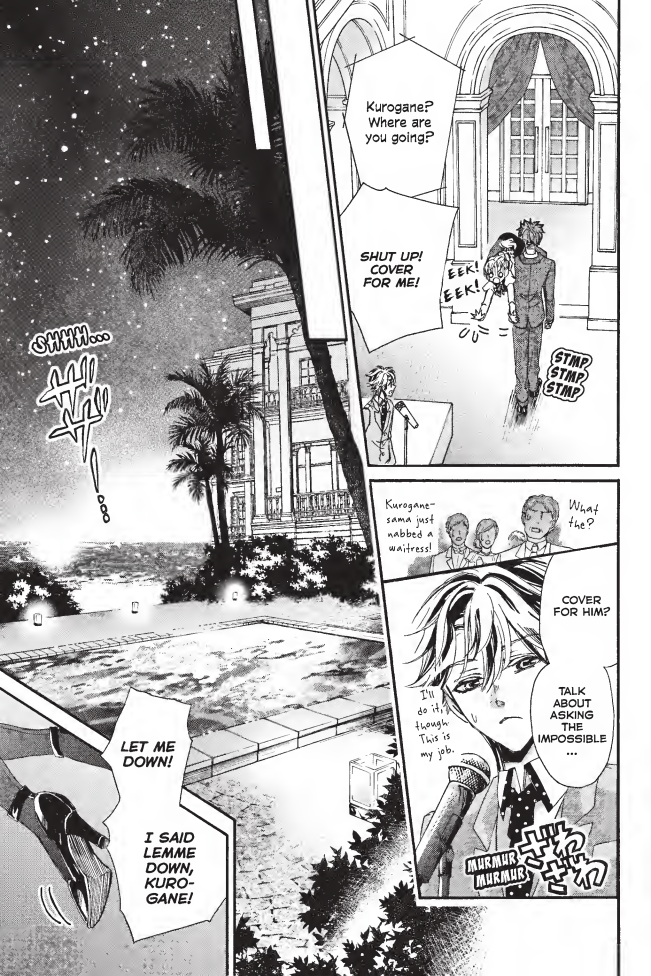

You can only see it a little, but I'm happy I got to draw the ocean too.

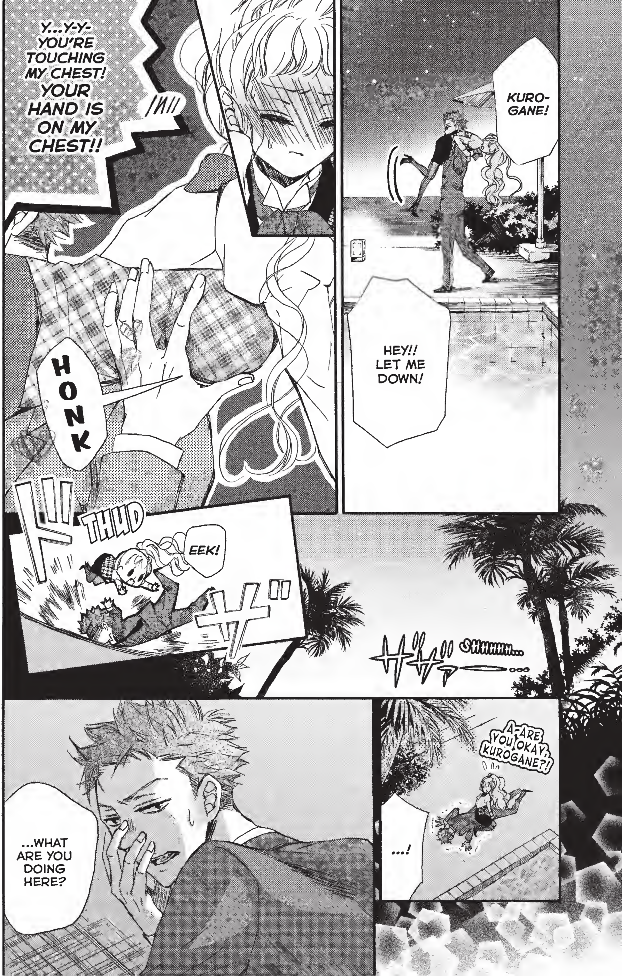

HE NEVER MAKES THAT FACE...
BUT OF COURSE HE WOULD. THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF GUESTS HERE, AND THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT HOW HE'S NOT SUITED FOR IT...
KURO-GANE...
THE PRESSURE'S SO INTENSE, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STAY ON MY FEET!
CLACK

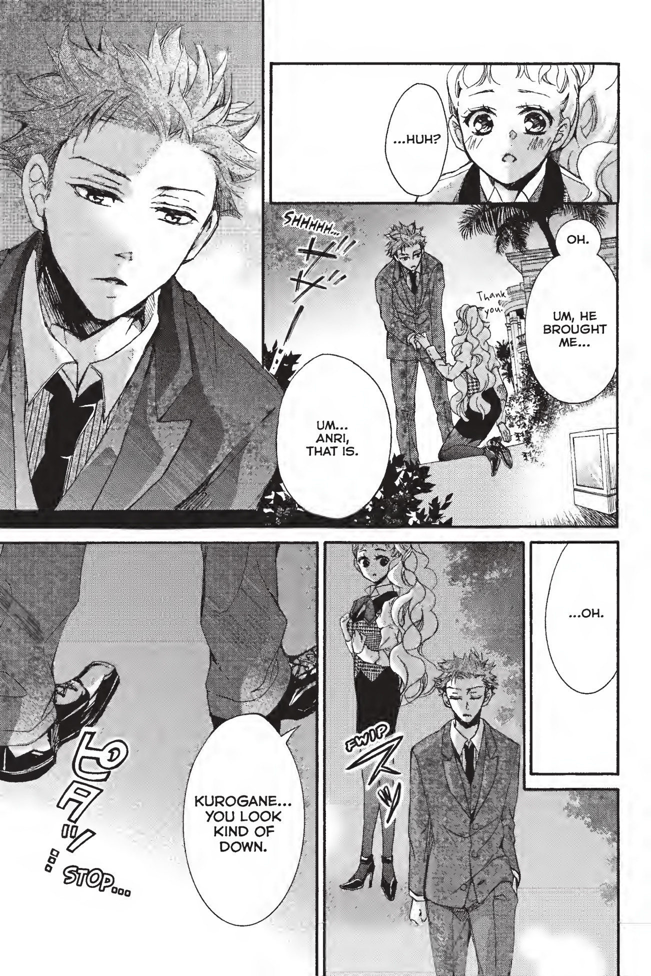

TH-THIS IS FROM THE THREE GENTLEMEN WITH YOU.
SMILE
TO KUROGANE
FROM ANRI, SENA, MIKIHITO
TO KUROGANE
FROM ANRI, SENA, MIKIHITO
SORRY FOR USING YOUR NAMES WITHOUT ASKING, GUYS!
I'LL SLIP OUT AFTER I GIVE IT TO HIM!
CHATTER CHATTER
A CARD?
EWIP
WHA?!
Remember that day!
...
Well, if you'll excuse me...
SHAKE SHAKE
GRAB!!

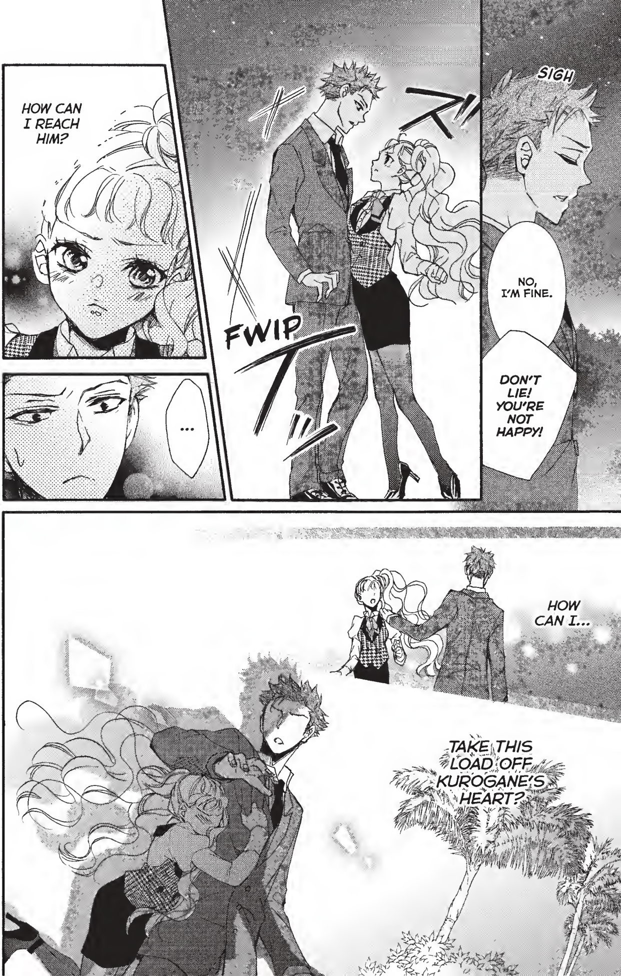

RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
NOT SO FAST, TAIGA.
EEK!! HE KNOWS IT WAS ME?!
HOW?!
T-T-T-TAIGA?! WHOEVER MIGHT THAT BE?!
YOU. I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU! THOSE THREE WOULD NEVER DO THIS.
OH JEEZ! OH JEEZ! OH JEEZ!
What the hell's this card supposed to be?
W-W-WAIT A MINUTE, KURO-GANE!
I...
CLICK
Sorry to keep you waiting.
The next CEO will now greet everyone.
HUH?! WHA?! THE PARTY NEEDS TO WAIT A MINUTE, TOO!!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! I WAS JUST TRYING TO CHEER YOU UP!
BECAUSE YOU LOOKED SO PRETTY IN DRAG!
MURMUR...!!

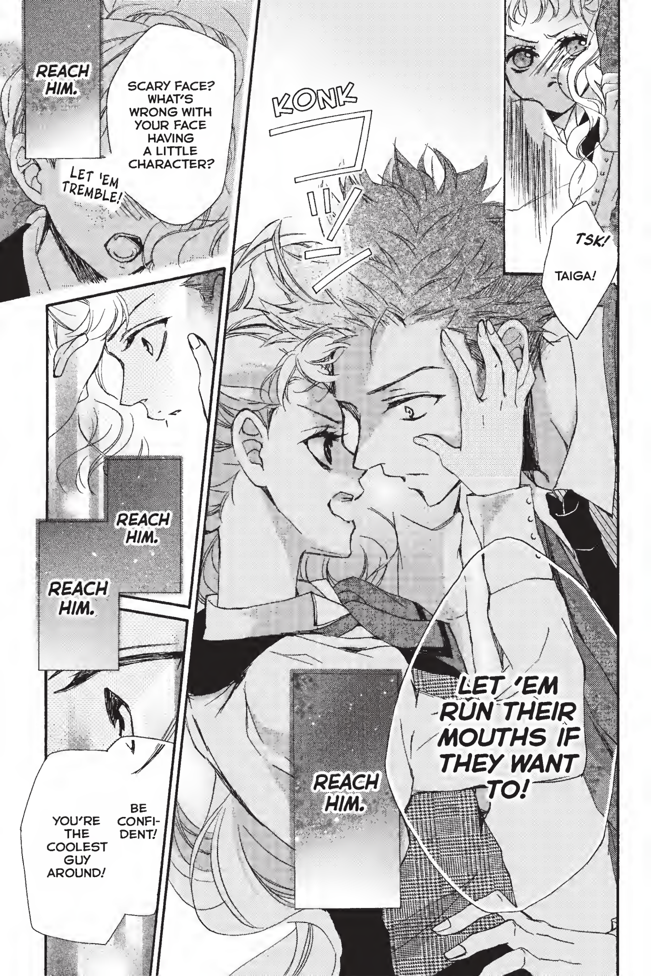

HEY, TAIGA!
MURMUR...
MURMUR
MURMUR
D- Drag ...?!
YOU'RE NOT SCARY AT ALL!
YOU WERE PRETTY IN DRAG!!
YOUR DRAG LOOK IS THE BEST!!
What the?
?!
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
ザワザワザワ
Drag? What's she talking about?!
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT WAITRESS BEFORE! GET HER OUT OF HERE!
She's louder than the freakin' microphone!
EEEEEEK!
Now, Kurogane-sama...
Huh?

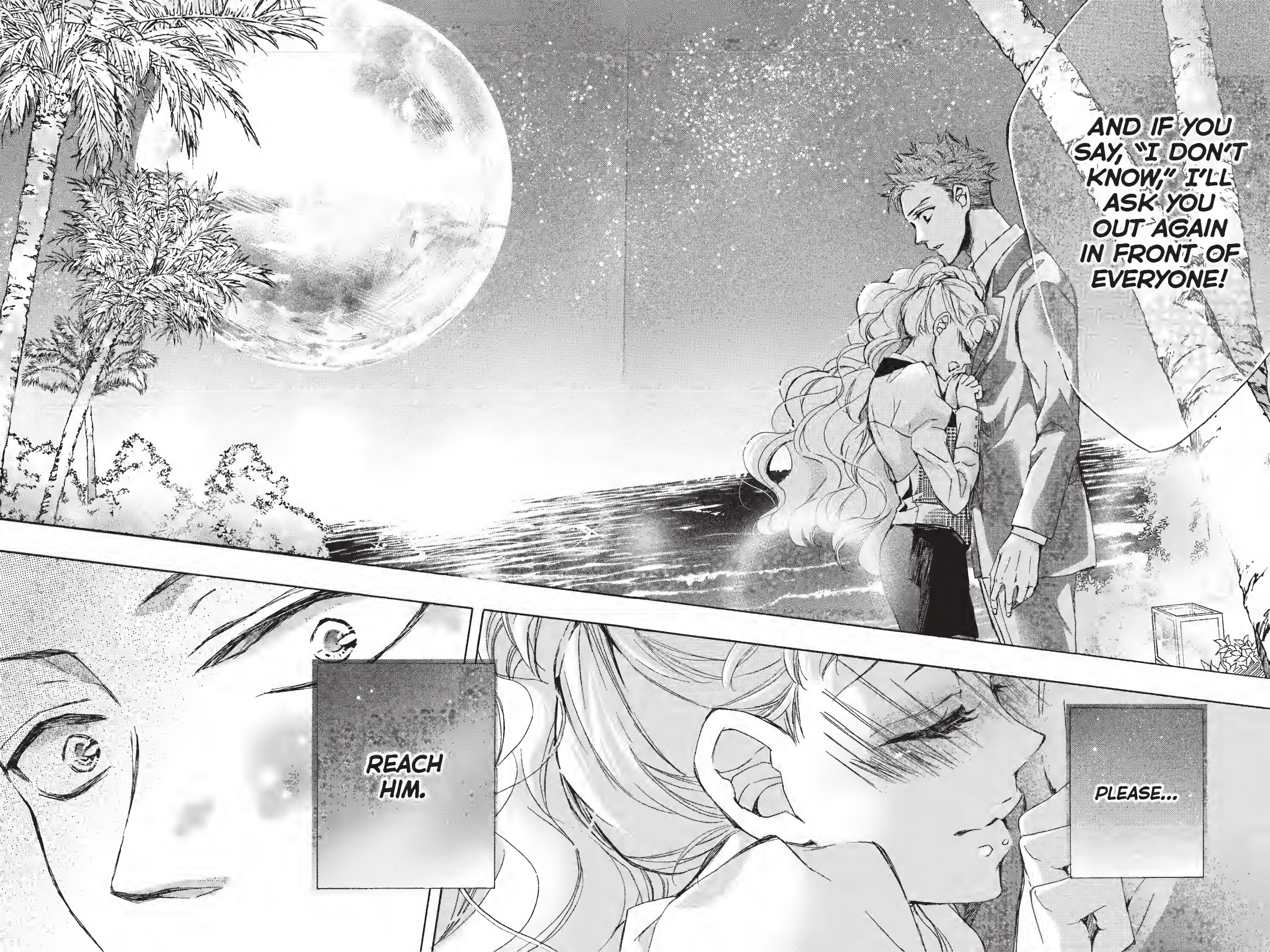

Kurogane? Where are you going?
SHUT UP! COVER FOR ME!
EEK! EEK!
STMP STMP STMP
What the?
Kurogane-sama just nabbed a waitress!
COVER FOR HIM?
TALK ABOUT ASKING THE IMPOSSIBLE...
I'll do it, though. This is my job.
MURMUR MURMUR
ざわざわ
SHHHH...
ザザザ…
LET ME DOWN!
I SAID LEMME DOWN, KURO-GANE!

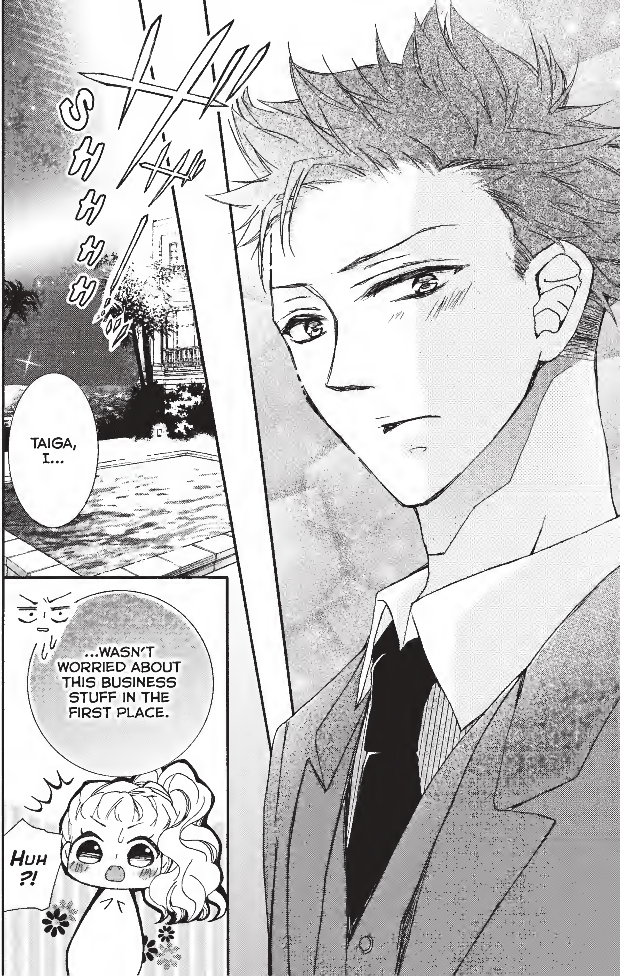

KURO-GANE!
HEY!! LET ME DOWN!
Y...Y-Y-YOU'RE TOUCHING MY CHEST! YOUR HAND IS ON MY CHEST!!
HONK
ザザァーー…
SHHHHH...
ドッ
THUD
EEK!
ザッ
A-ARE YOU OKAY, KUROGANE?!
...!
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

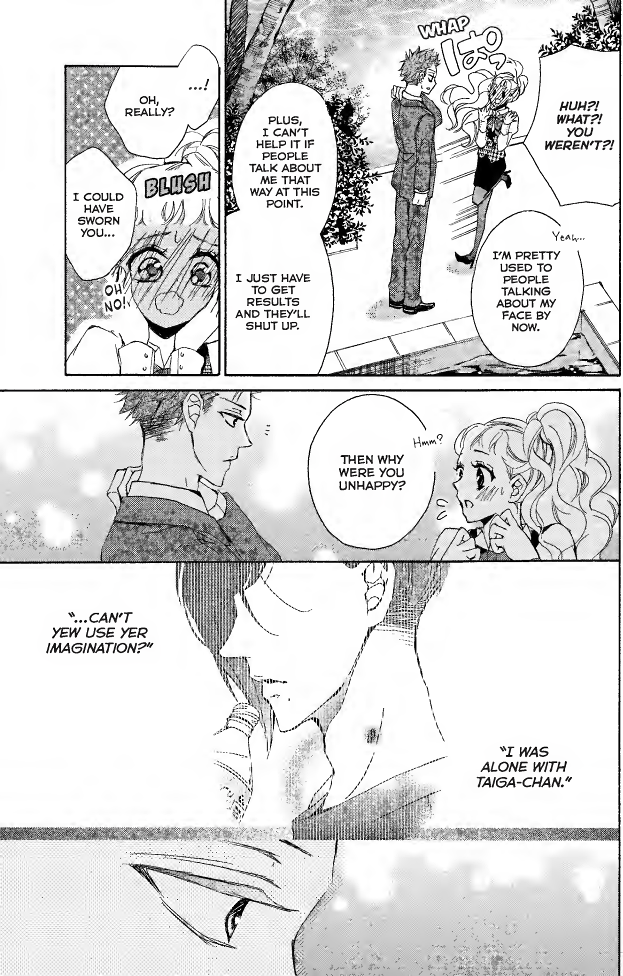

...HUH?
OH.
UM, HE BROUGHT ME...
Thank you.
SHHHHH...
UM... ANRI, THAT IS.
...OH.
FWIP
KUROGANE... YOU LOOK KIND OF DOWN.
STOP...

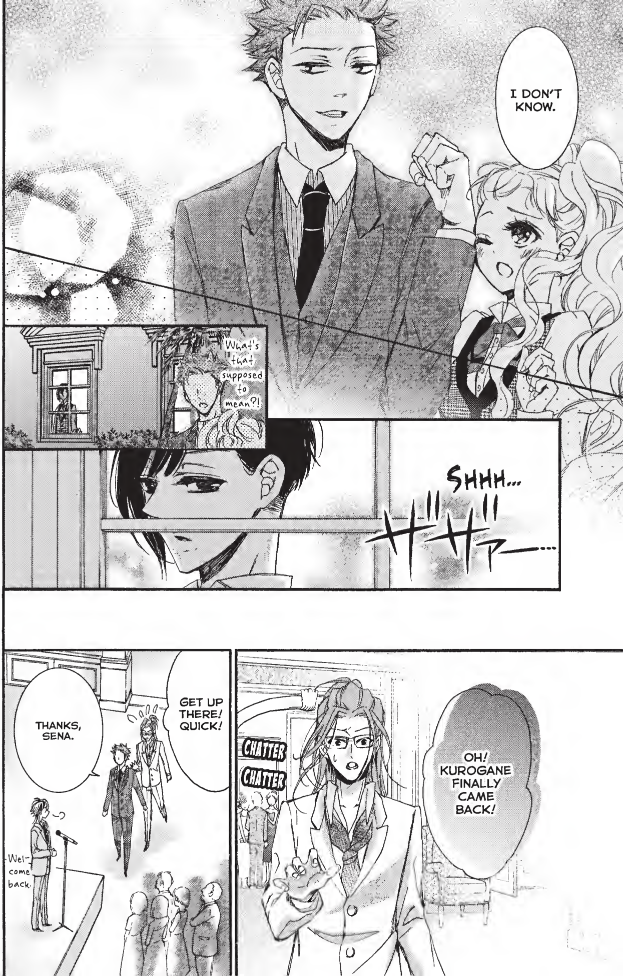

SIGH
NO, I'M FINE.
DON'T LIE! YOU'RE NOT HAPPY!
FWIP
HOW CAN I REACH HIM?
...
HOW CAN I...
TAKE THIS LOAD OFF KUROGANE'S HEART?

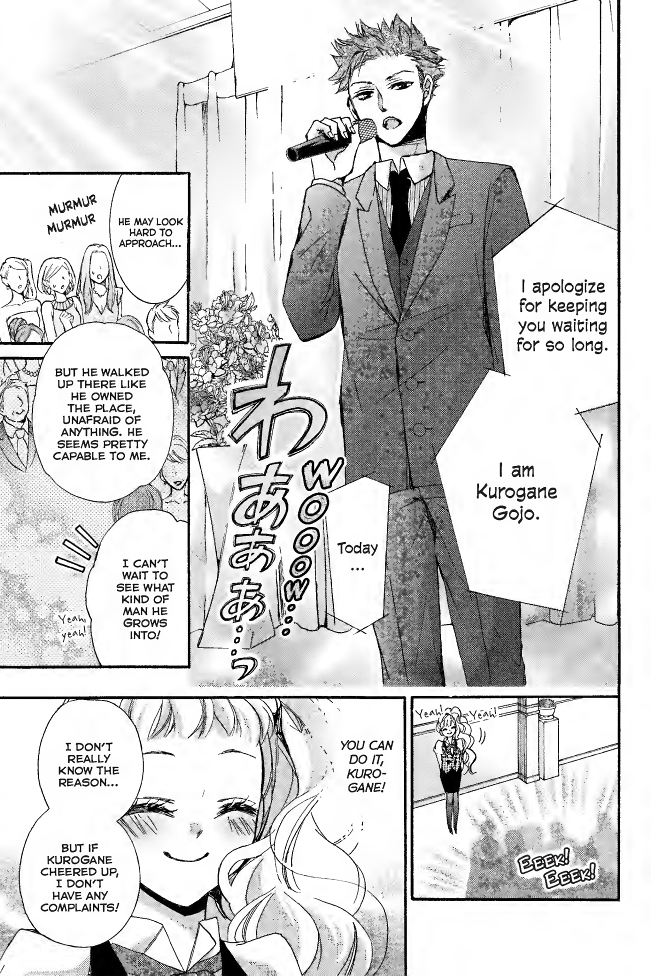

TSK!
TAIGA!
KONK
REACH HIM.
SCARY FACE? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR FACE HAVING A LITTLE CHARACTER?
LET 'EM TREMBLE!
REACH HIM.
REACH HIM.
LET 'EM RUN THEIR MOUTHS IF THEY WANT TO!
REACH HIM.
BE CONFIDENT!
YOU'RE THE COOLEST GUY AROUND!

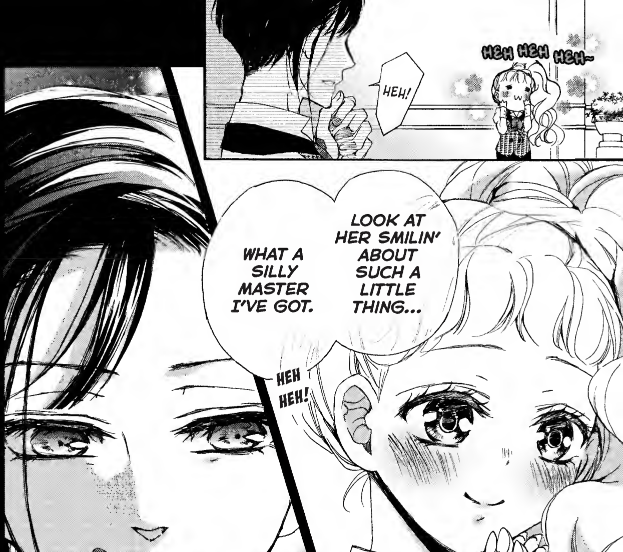

AND IF YOU SAY, "I DON'T KNOW," I'LL ASK YOU OUT AGAIN IN FRONT OF EVERYONE!
PLEASE...
REACH HIM.


SHHHHH!
TAIGA, I...
...WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT THIS BUSINESS STUFF IN THE FIRST PLACE.
HUH ?!


WHAP
ぱっ
HUH?! WHAT?! YOU WEREN'T?!
Yeah...
I'M PRETTY USED TO PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT MY FACE BY NOW.
PLUS, I CAN'T HELP IT IF PEOPLE TALK ABOUT ME THAT WAY AT THIS POINT.
I JUST HAVE TO GET RESULTS AND THEY'LL SHUT UP.
...!
OH, REALLY?
BLUSH
I COULD HAVE SWORN YOU...
OH NO!
Hmm?
THEN WHY WERE YOU UNHAPPY?
"...CAN'T YEW USE YER IMAGINATION?"
"I WAS ALONE WITH TAIGA-CHAN."

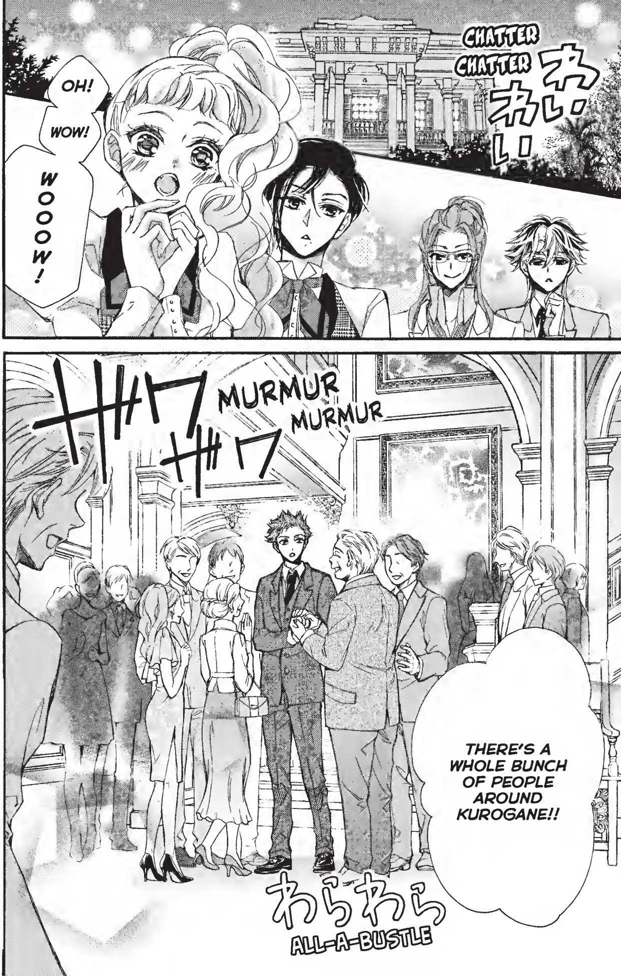

I DON'T KNOW.
What's that supposed to mean?!
SHHH...
ザザザァー...
OH! KUROGANE FINALLY CAME BACK!
CHATTER
CHATTER
GET UP THERE! QUICK!
THANKS, SENA.
Wel-come back.

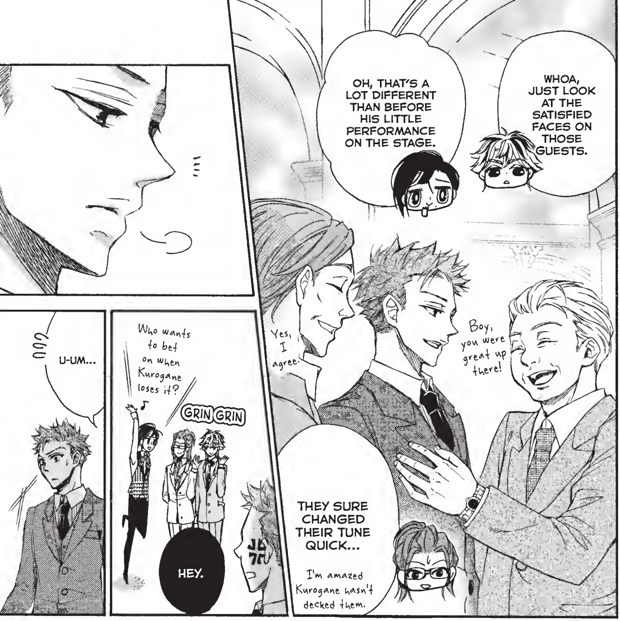

I apologize for keeping you waiting for so long.
I am Kurogane Gojo.
Today...
わあぁあ…っ
Wooow...
MURMUR MURMUR
HE MAY LOOK HARD TO APPROACH...
BUT HE WALKED UP THERE LIKE HE OWNED THE PLACE, UNAFRAID OF ANYTHING. HE SEEMS PRETTY CAPABLE TO ME.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT KIND OF MAN HE GROWS INTO!
Yeah, yeah!
Yeah! Yeah!
EEEK! EEEK!
YOU CAN DO IT, KUROGANE!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE REASON...
BUT IF KUROGANE CHEERED UP, I DON'T HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS!


HEH HEH HEH~
HEH!
LOOK AT HER SMILIN' ABOUT SUCH A LITTLE THING...
WHAT A SILLY MASTER I'VE GOT.
HEH HEH!
THE REAL FUN AT A PARTY COMES LATER.

TRAP 12

Show Me Everything

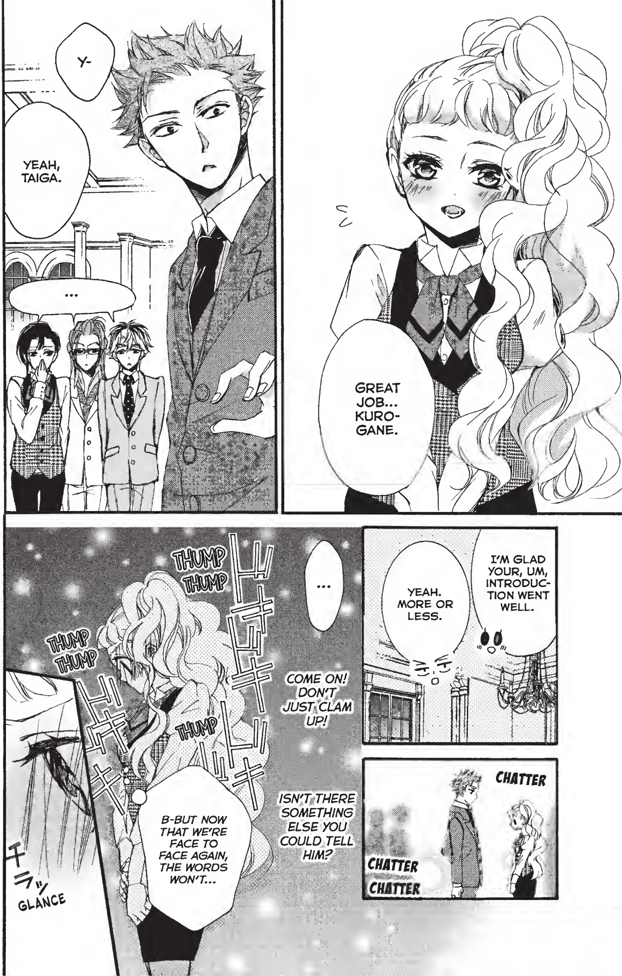

CHATTER CHATTER
わいわい
OH!
WOW!
WOOOOW!
ザワザワ
MURMUR MURMUR
THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE AROUND KUROGANE!!
わらわら
ALL-A-BUSTLE

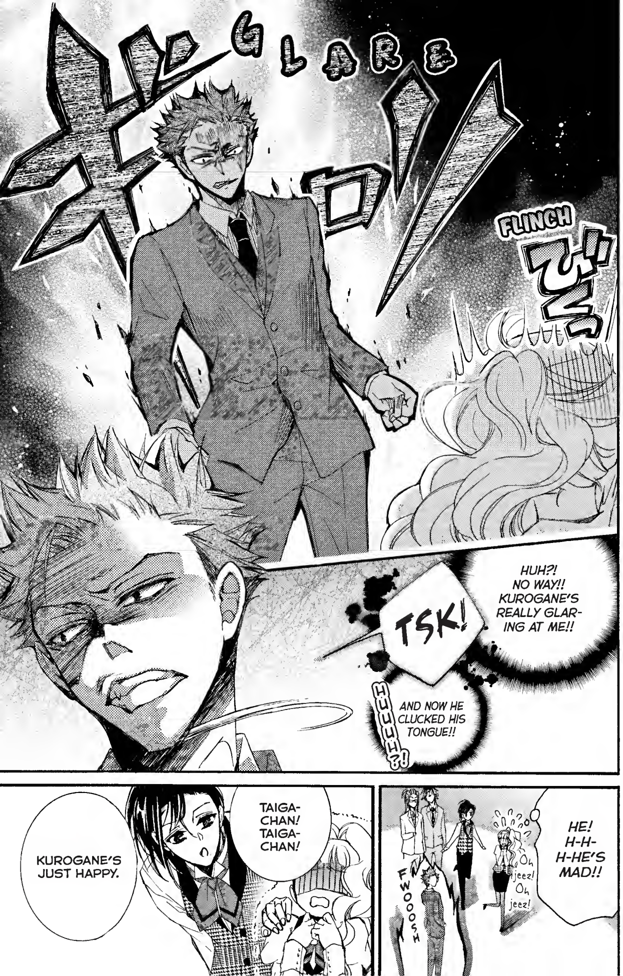

WHOA, JUST LOOK AT THE SATISFIED FACES ON THOSE GUESTS.
OH, THAT'S A LOT DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE HIS LITTLE PERFORMANCE ON THE STAGE.
...
Boy, you were great up there!
Yes, I agree.
THEY SURE CHANGED THEIR TUNE QUICK...
I'm amazed Kurogane hasn't decked them.
Who wants to bet on when Kurogane loses it?
GRIN GRIN
HEY.
U-UM...
GUU

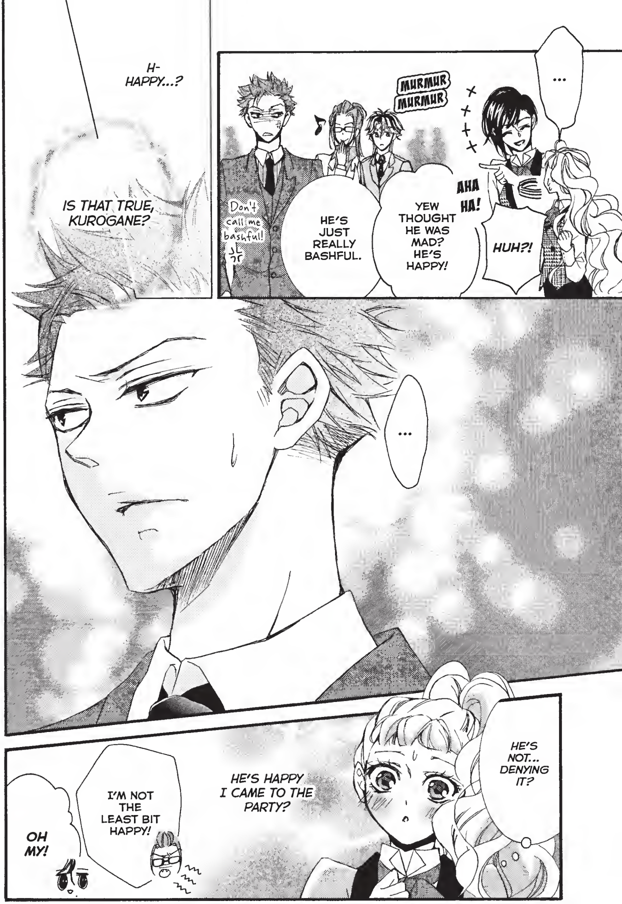
6 ABOUT PARTIES

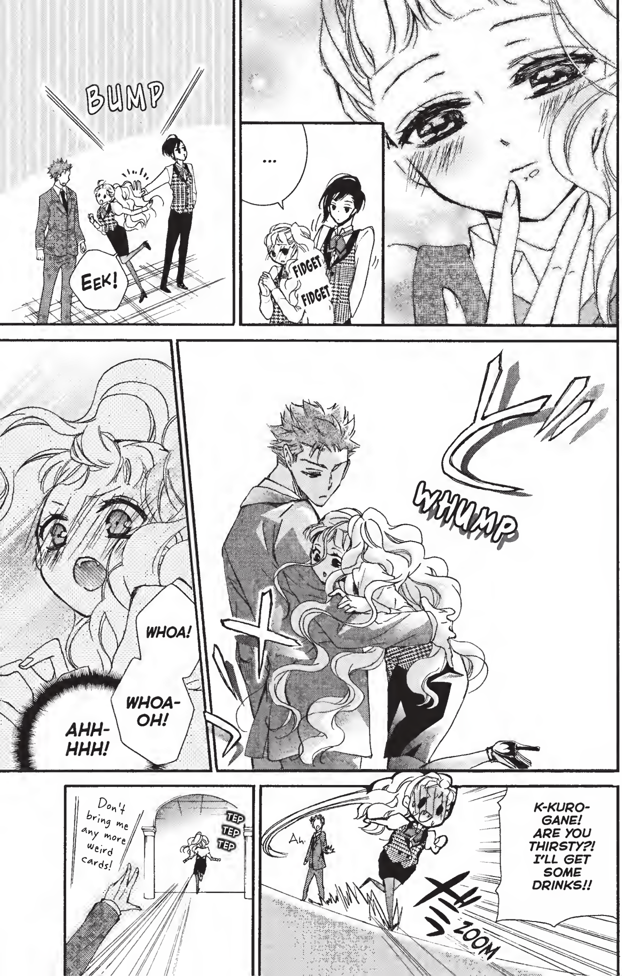
AREN'T PARTIES GREAT?
ALL THOSE FLASHY PEOPLE, ALL THAT DELICIOUS FOOD... PARTIES ARE SO GREAT.
ALTHOUGH THE PARTIES TORIUMI ASPIRES TO ARE MOSTLY THE ONES FROM MOVIES WITH ALL THE CELEBRITIES. IN REAL LIFE, I JUST GOT INVITED TO THE KODANSHA PARTIES FOR THE FIRST TIME THE YEAR BEFORE LAST.

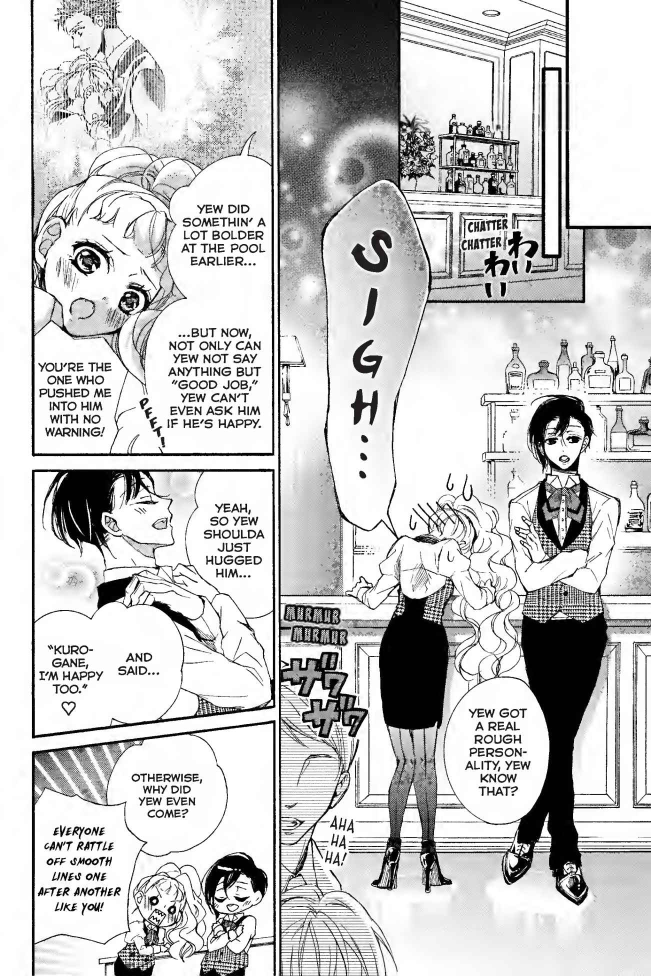
TO BE CONTINUED

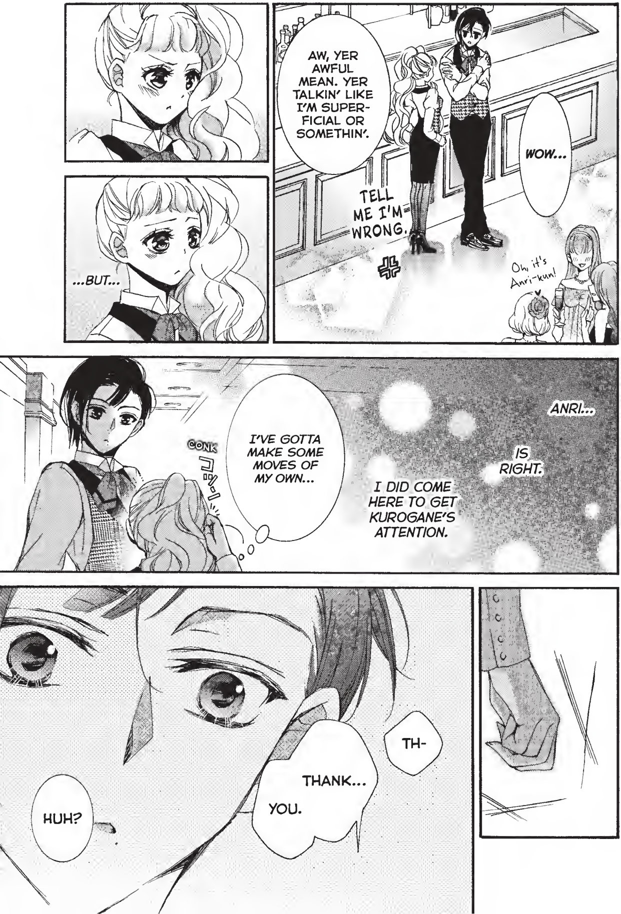

GREAT JOB... KURO-GANE.
Y-
YEAH, TAIGA.
...
I'M GLAD YOUR, UM, INTRODUCTION WENT WELL.
YEAH. MORE OR LESS.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
...
THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP
THUMP
COME ON! DON'T JUST CLAM UP!
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU COULD TELL HIM?
B-BUT NOW THAT WE'RE FACE TO FACE AGAIN, THE WORDS WON'T...
チラッ
GLANCE

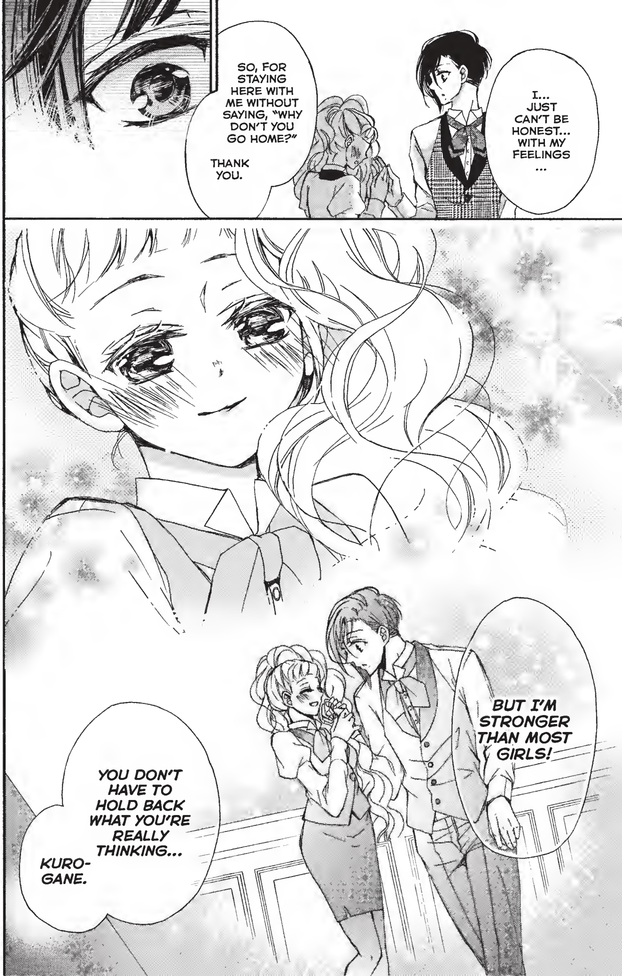

GLARE
FLINCH
HUH?! NO WAY!! KUROGANE'S REALLY GLARING AT ME!!
TSK!
AND NOW HE CLUCKED HIS TONGUE!!
HUUUUH?!
HE! H-H-H-HE'S MAD!!
Oh jeez! Oh jeez!
FWOOOSH
TAIGA-CHAN! TAIGA-CHAN!
KUROGANE'S JUST HAPPY.

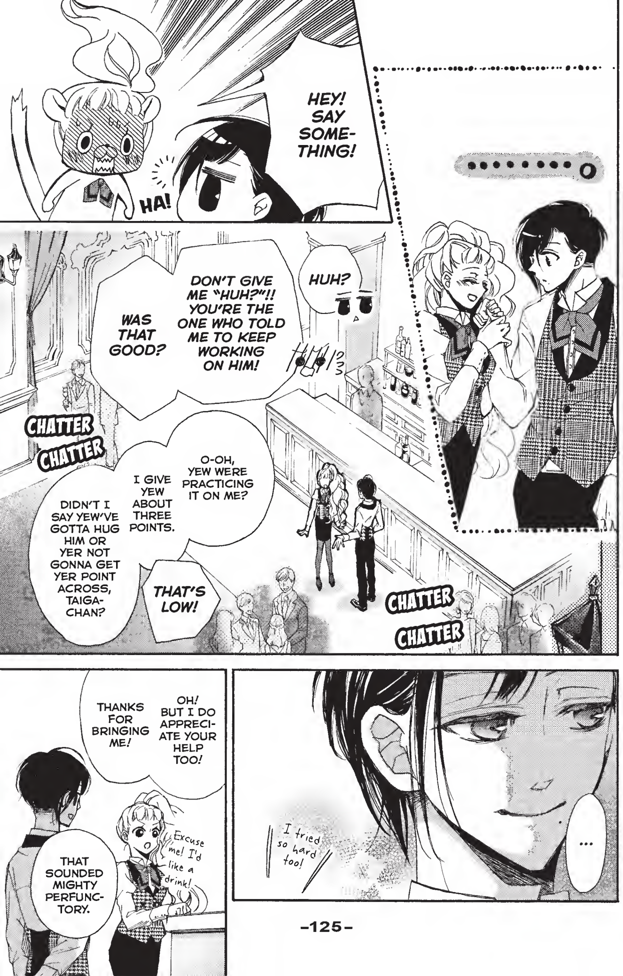

...
HUH?!
AHA HA!
YEW THOUGHT HE WAS MAD? HE'S HAPPY!
HE'S JUST REALLY BASHFUL.
MURMUR MURMUR
Don't call me bashful!
H- HAPPY...?
IS THAT TRUE, KUROGANE?
...
HE'S NOT... DENYING IT?
HE'S HAPPY I CAME TO THE PARTY?
I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT HAPPY!
OH MY!

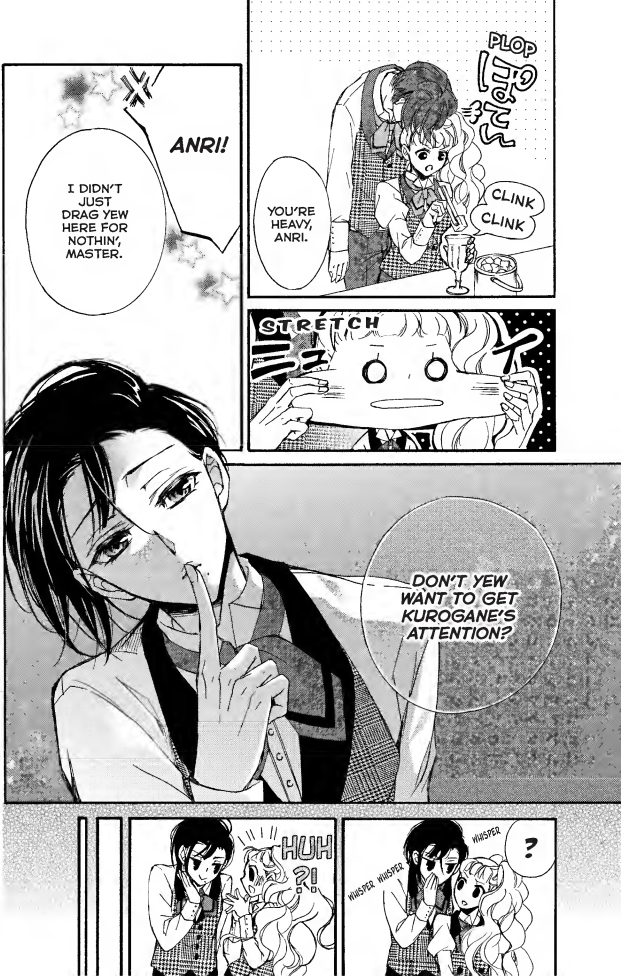

...
FIDGET FIDGET
BUMP
EEK!
WHUMP
WHOA!
WHOA-OH!
AHH-HHH!
K-KURO-GANE! ARE YOU THIRSTY?! I'LL GET SOME DRINKS!!
Ah
ZOOM
Don't bring me any more weird cards!
TEP TEP TEP

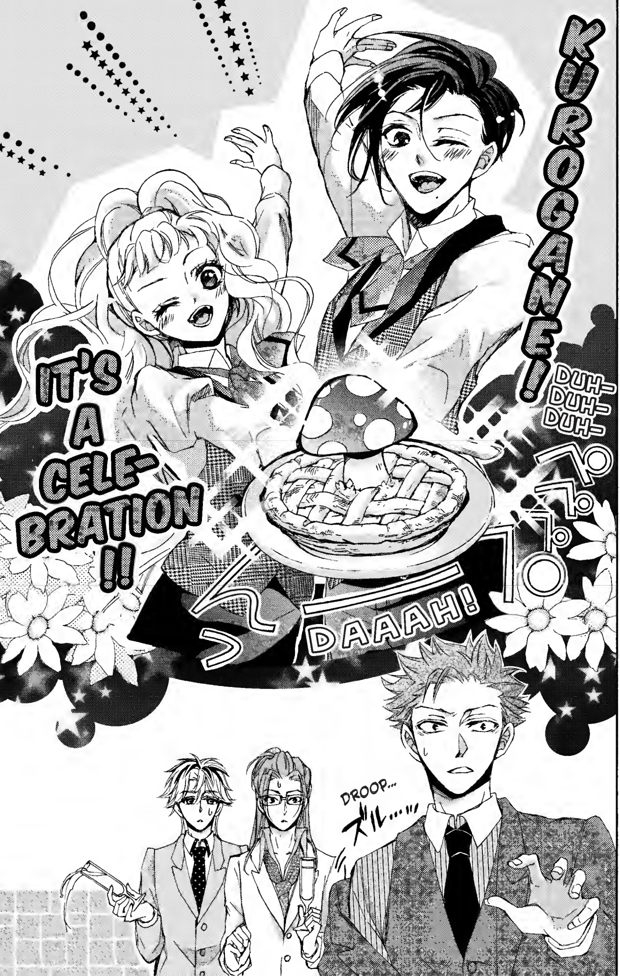

CHATTER CHATTER
わいわい
SIGH…
YEW GOT A REAL ROUGH PERSONALITY, YEW KNOW THAT?
MURMUR MURMUR
ザワザワ
AHA HA HA!
YEW DID SOMETHIN' A LOT BOLDER AT THE POOL EARLIER…
…BUT NOW, NOT ONLY CAN YEW NOT SAY ANYTHING BUT "GOOD JOB," YEW CAN'T EVEN ASK HIM IF HE'S HAPPY.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PUSHED ME INTO HIM WITH NO WARNING!
PFFT!
YEAH, SO YEW SHOULDA JUST HUGGED HIM…
AND SAID…
"KUROGANE, I'M HAPPY TOO." ♡
OTHERWISE, WHY DID YEW EVEN COME?
EVERYONE CAN'T RATTLE OFF SMOOTH LINES ONE AFTER ANOTHER LIKE YOU!

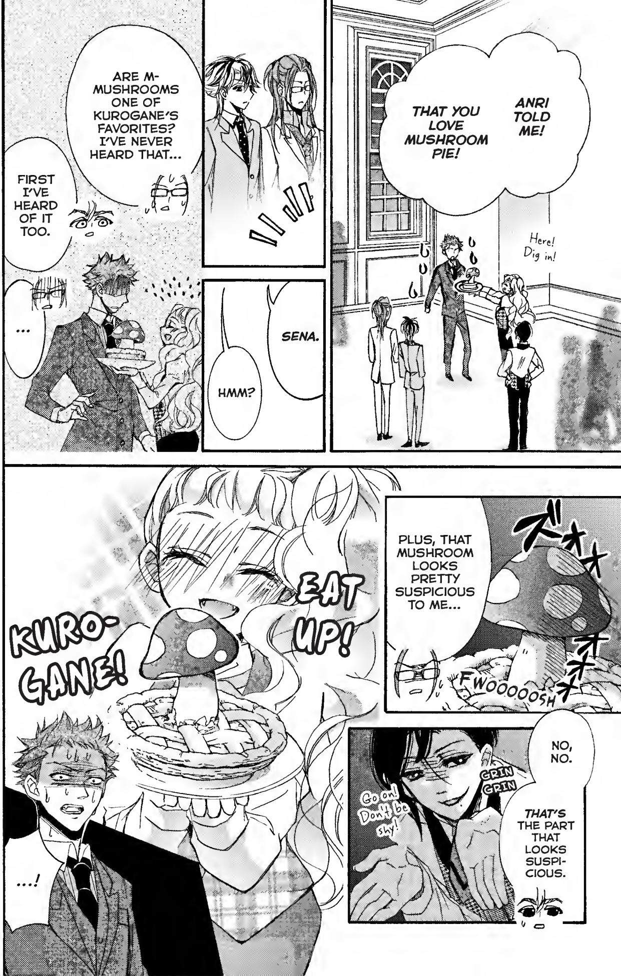

WOW...
AW, YER AWFUL MEAN. YER TALKIN' LIKE I'M SUPERFICIAL OR SOMETHIN'.
TELL ME I'M WRONG.
Oh, it's Anri-kun!
...BUT...
ANRI...
IS RIGHT.
I DID COME HERE TO GET KUROGANE'S ATTENTION.
I'VE GOTTA MAKE SOME MOVES OF MY OWN...
CONK
コッ
TH-
THANK...
YOU.
HUH?


I... JUST CAN'T BE HONEST... WITH MY FEELINGS ...
SO, FOR STAYING HERE WITH ME WITHOUT SAYING, "WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME?" THANK YOU.
BUT I'M STRONGER THAN MOST GIRLS!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK WHAT YOU'RE REALLY THINKING... KUROGANE.


••••••••o
HEY! SAY SOMETHING!
HA!
WAS THAT GOOD?
HUH?
DON'T GIVE ME "HUH?"!! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO KEEP WORKING ON HIM!
O-OH, YEW WERE PRACTICING IT ON ME?
I GIVE YEW ABOUT THREE POINTS.
DIDN'T I SAY YEW'VE GOTTA HUG HIM OR YER NOT GONNA GET YER POINT ACROSS, TAIGA-CHAN?
THAT'S LOW!
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER CHATTER
...
I tried so hard too!
OH! BUT I DO APPRECIATE YOUR HELP TOO!
THANKS FOR BRINGING ME!
THAT SOUNDED MIGHTY PERFUNCTORY.
Excuse me! I'd like a drink!


PLOP
ぽてん
CLINK
CLINK
YOU'RE HEAVY, ANRI.
STRETCH
ANRI!
I DIDN'T JUST DRAG YEW HERE FOR NOTHIN', MASTER.
DON'T YEW WANT TO GET KUROGANE'S ATTENTION?
?
WHISPER
WHISPER WHISPER
HUH ?!


KUROGANE!
DUH-DUH-DUH-
パパパパーン
DAAAH!
IT'S A CELE-BRATION!!
DROOP...
ズル…ッ


ANRI TOLD ME!
THAT YOU LOVE MUSHROOM PIE!
Here! Dig in!
ARE M-MUSHROOMS ONE OF KUROGANE'S FAVORITES? I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT...
FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT TOO.
SENA.
HMM?
...
PLUS, THAT MUSHROOM LOOKS PRETTY SUSPICIOUS TO ME...
ズオオオオオ
FWOOOOOSH
NO, NO.
GRIN GRIN
THAT'S THE PART THAT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS.
Go on! Don't be shy!
EAT UP!
KURO-GANE!
...!

7 ABOUT PARTIES CONTINUED

OH, RIGHT! BACK TO THE THING I REALLY WANTED TO TALK ABOUT IN REGARDS TO PARTIES, SMALL PARTIES WITH JUST A COUPLE OF PEOPLE ARE FINE TOO, BUT TORIUMI LOVES BIG PARTIES WHERE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE GATHER AND HAVE FUN.

As big as you can get 'em!!

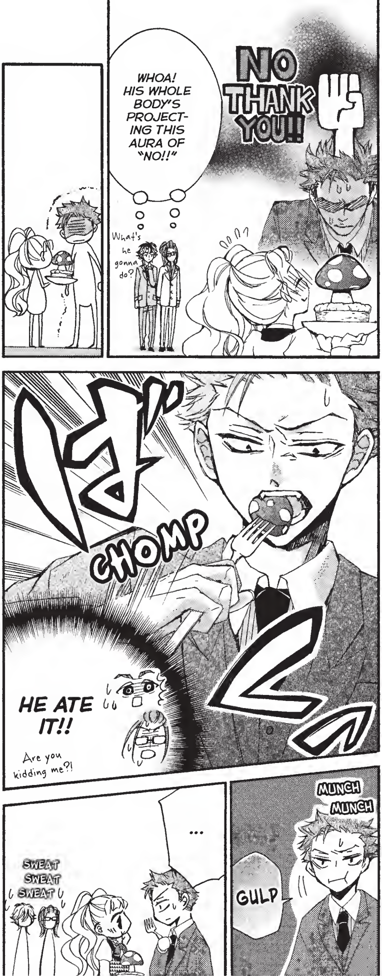
PARTIES SO BIG YOU WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE IF A FEW MORE SLIPPED IN.

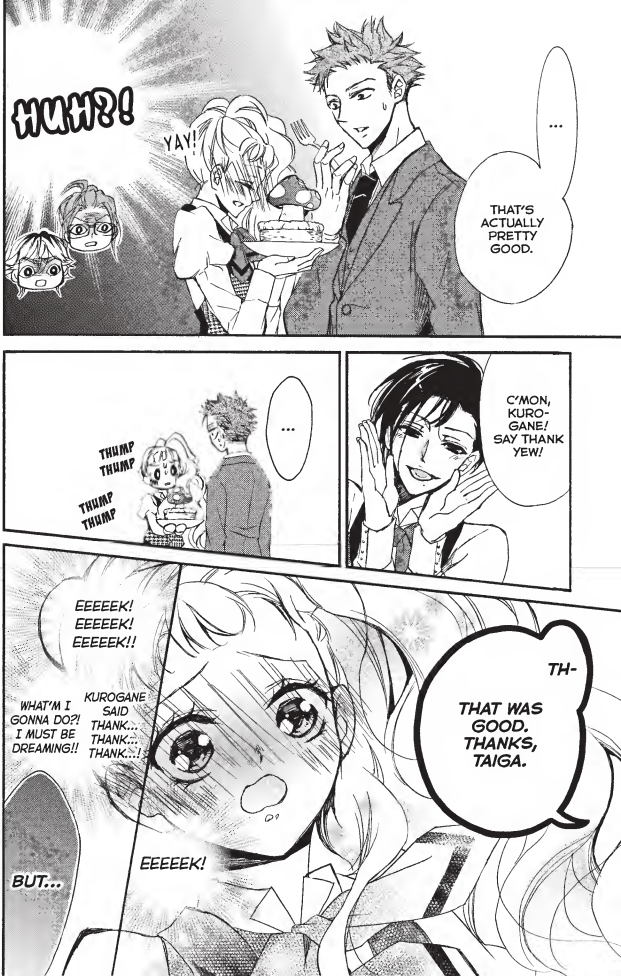
THE KIND WHERE YOU GET ALL EXCITED BECAUSE SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN!!

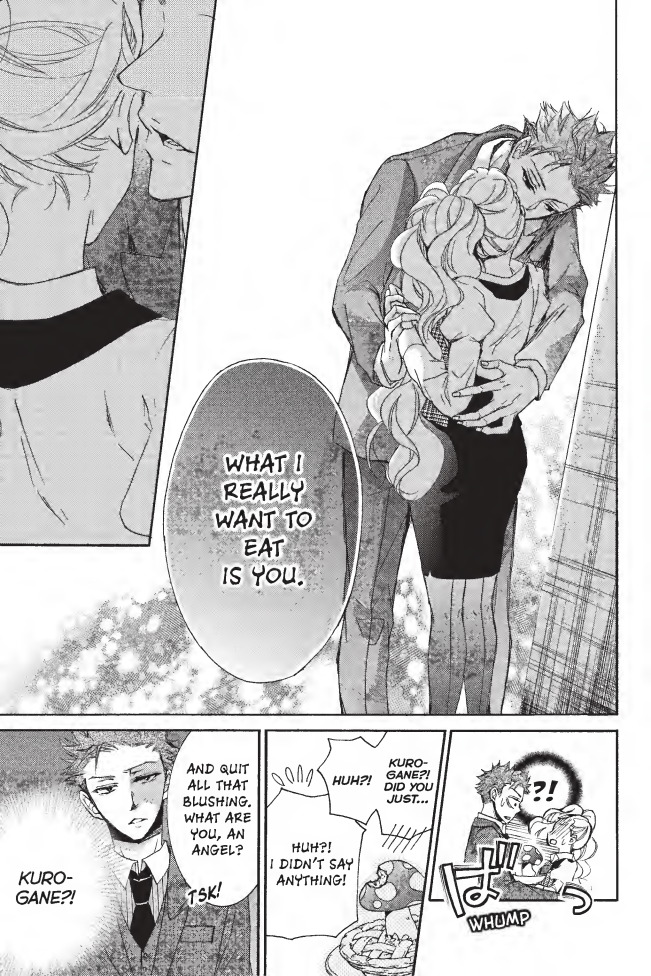
The kind where you shoot off fireworks!!

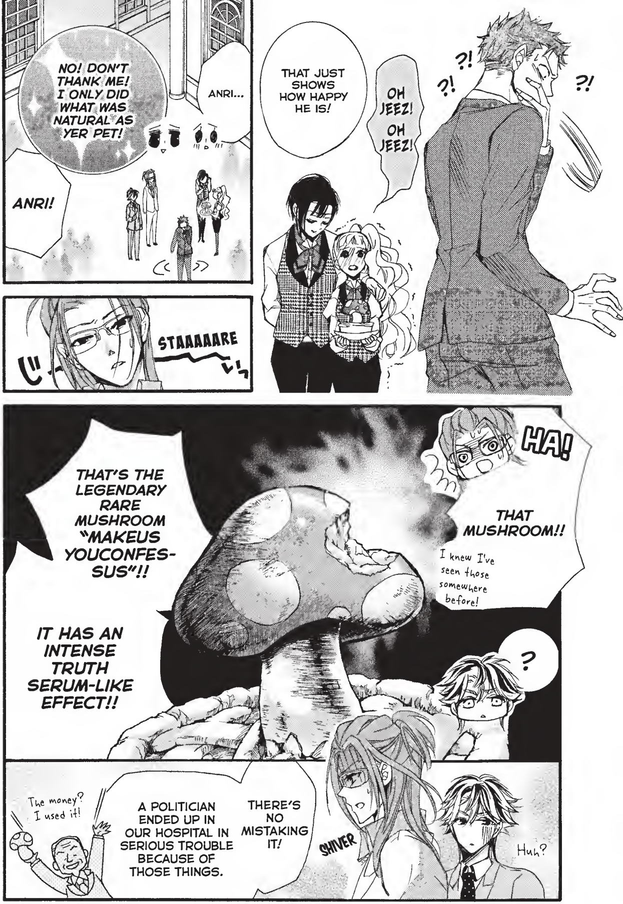
PARTIES LIKE THAT.

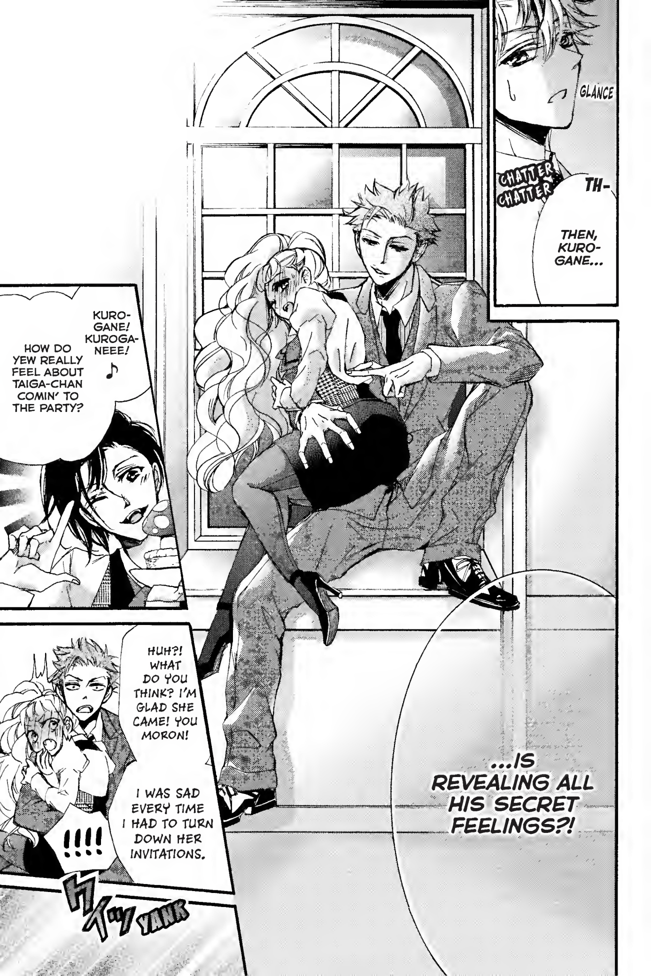
SKRITCH SKRITCH
SKRITCH SKRITCH
カリカリカリカリ
... Parties are so great.

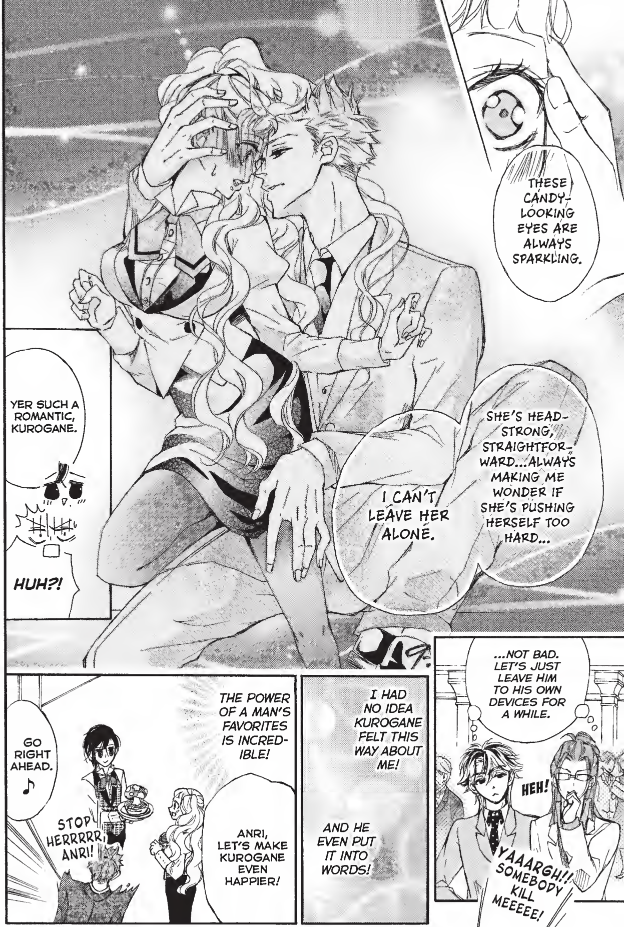

NO THANK YOU!!
WHOA! HIS WHOLE BODY'S PROJECTING THIS AURA OF "NO!!"
What's he gonna do?
CHOMP
HE ATE IT!!
Are you kidding me?!
MUNCH MUNCH
GULP
...
SWEAT SWEAT SWEAT

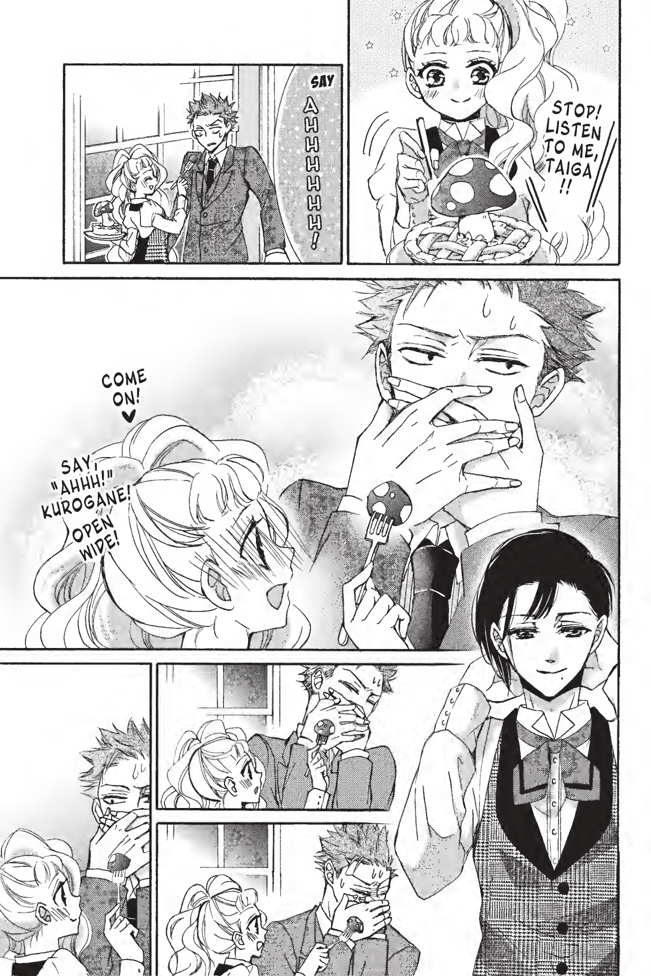

...
THAT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD.
YAY!
HUH?!
C'MON, KUROGANE! SAY THANK YEW!
...
THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP
TH- THAT WAS GOOD. THANKS, TAIGA.
EEEEEK! EEEEEK! EEEEEK!!
KUROGANE SAID THANK... THANK... THANK...!
WHAT'M I GONNA DO?! I MUST BE DREAMING!!
EEEEEK!
BUT...

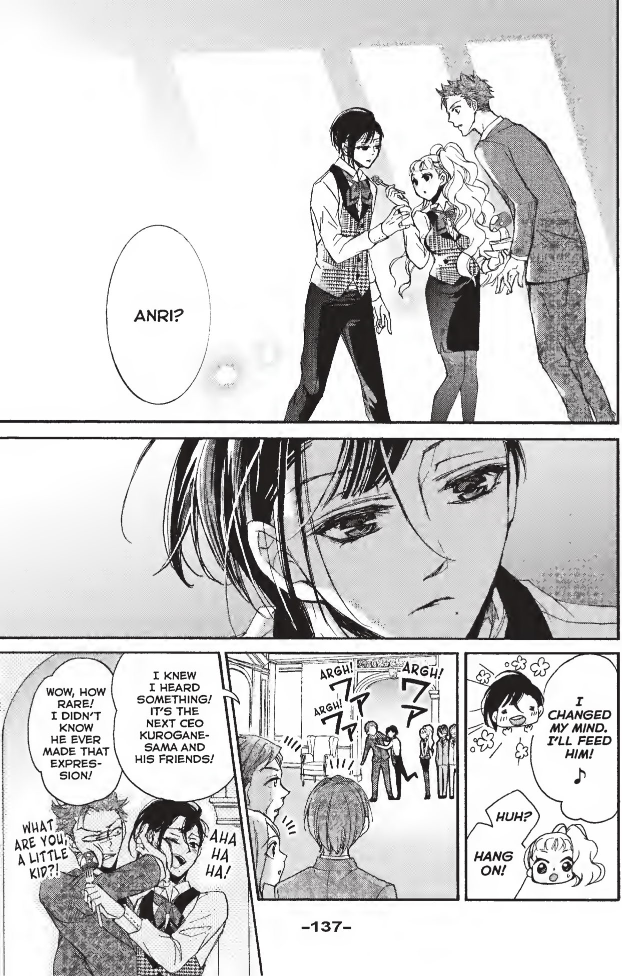

WHAT I REALLY WANT TO EAT IS YOU.
?!
ばっ
WHUMP
KURO-GANE?! DID YOU JUST...
HUH?!
HUH?! I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
AND QUIT ALL THAT BLUSHING. WHAT ARE YOU, AN ANGEL?
TSK!
KURO-GANE?!

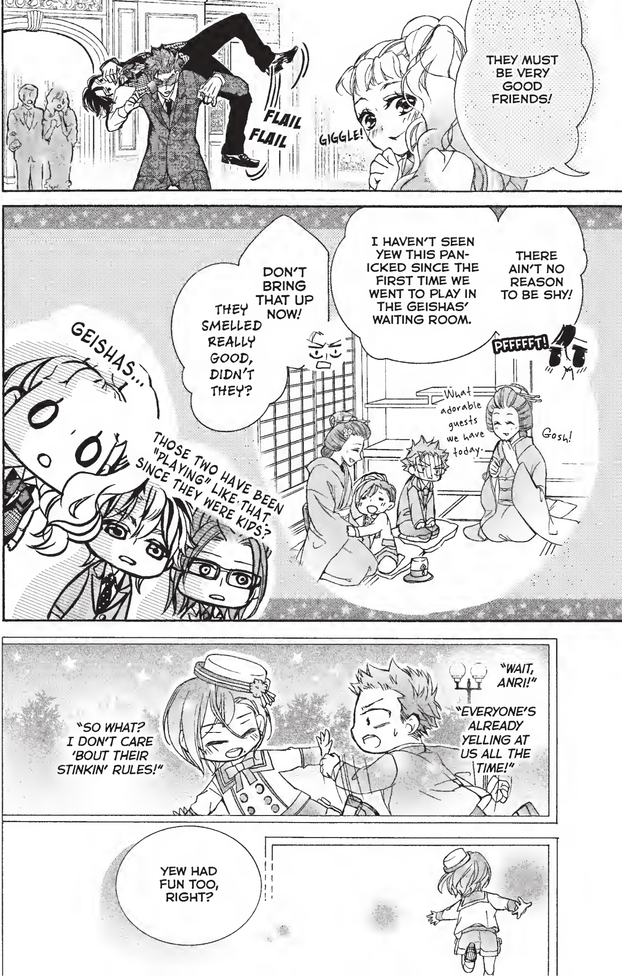

?! ?! ?!
OH JEEZ! OH JEEZ!
THAT JUST SHOWS HOW HAPPY HE IS!
ANRI...
NO! DON'T THANK ME! I ONLY DID WHAT WAS NATURAL AS YER PET!
ANRI!
STAAAAARE
HA!
THAT MUSHROOM!!
I knew I've seen those somewhere before!
THAT'S THE LEGENDARY RARE MUSHROOM "MAKEUS YOUCONFESSUS"!!
IT HAS AN INTENSE TRUTH SERUM-LIKE EFFECT!!
?
Huh?
SHIVER
THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT!
A POLITICIAN ENDED UP IN OUR HOSPITAL IN SERIOUS TROUBLE BECAUSE OF THOSE THINGS.
The money? I used it!

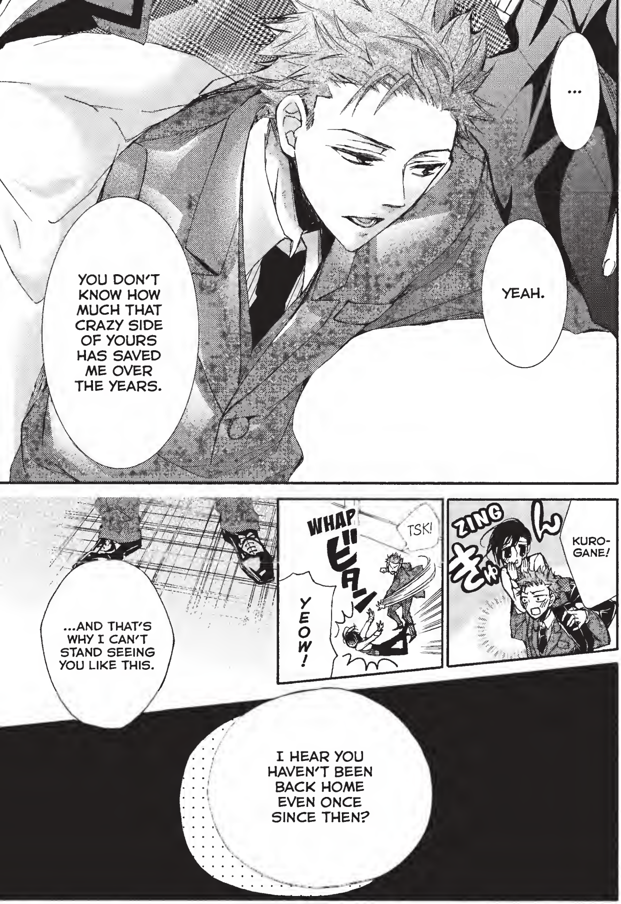

GLANCE
CHATTER CHATTER
TH-
THEN, KUROGANE...
KUROGANE! KUROGANEEE! ♪
HOW DO YEW REALLY FEEL ABOUT TAIGA-CHAN COMIN' TO THE PARTY?
HUH?! WHAT DO YOU THINK? I'M GLAD SHE CAME! YOU MORON!
I WAS SAD EVERY TIME I HAD TO TURN DOWN HER INVITATIONS.
!!!!
YANK
...IS REVEALING ALL HIS SECRET FEELINGS?!

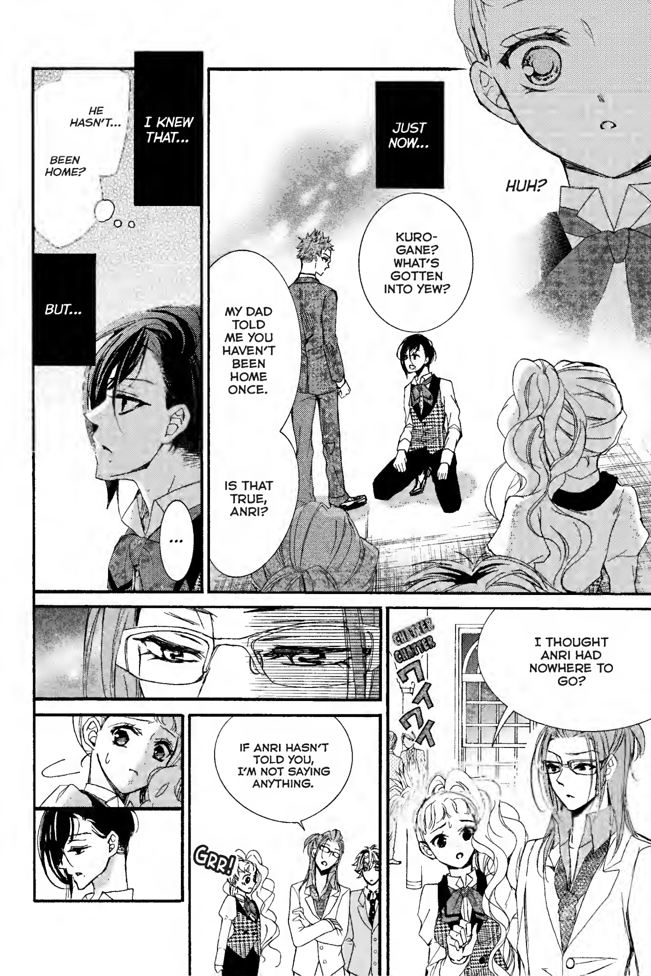

THESE CANDY-LOOKING EYES ARE ALWAYS SPARKLING.
SHE'S HEAD-STRONG, STRAIGHTFORWARD...ALWAYS MAKING ME WONDER IF SHE'S PUSHING HERSELF TOO HARD...
I CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE.
YER SUCH A ROMANTIC, KUROGANE.
HUH?!
...NOT BAD. LET'S JUST LEAVE HIM TO HIS OWN DEVICES FOR A WHILE.
HEH!
YAAARGH!! SOMEBODY KILL MEEEEE!
I HAD NO IDEA KUROGANE FELT THIS WAY ABOUT ME!
AND HE EVEN PUT IT INTO WORDS!
THE POWER OF A MAN'S FAVORITES IS INCREDIBLE!
ANRI, LET'S MAKE KUROGANE EVEN HAPPIER!
GO RIGHT AHEAD. ♪
STOP HERRRRR, ANRI!

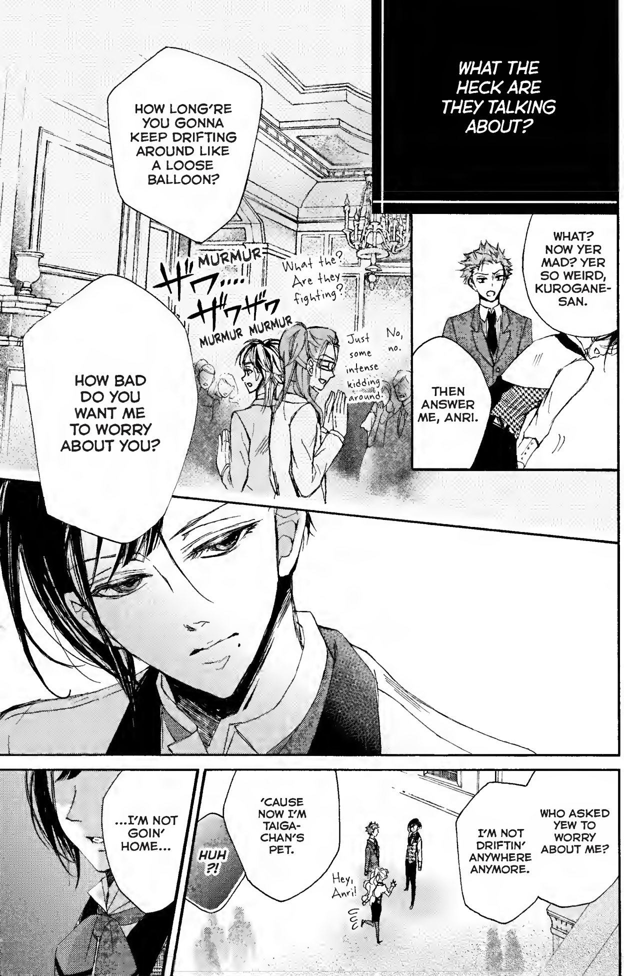

STOP! LISTEN TO ME, TAIGA!!
SAY AHHHHHHH!
COME ON! ♥
SAY, "AHHH!" KUROGANE!
OPEN WIDE!

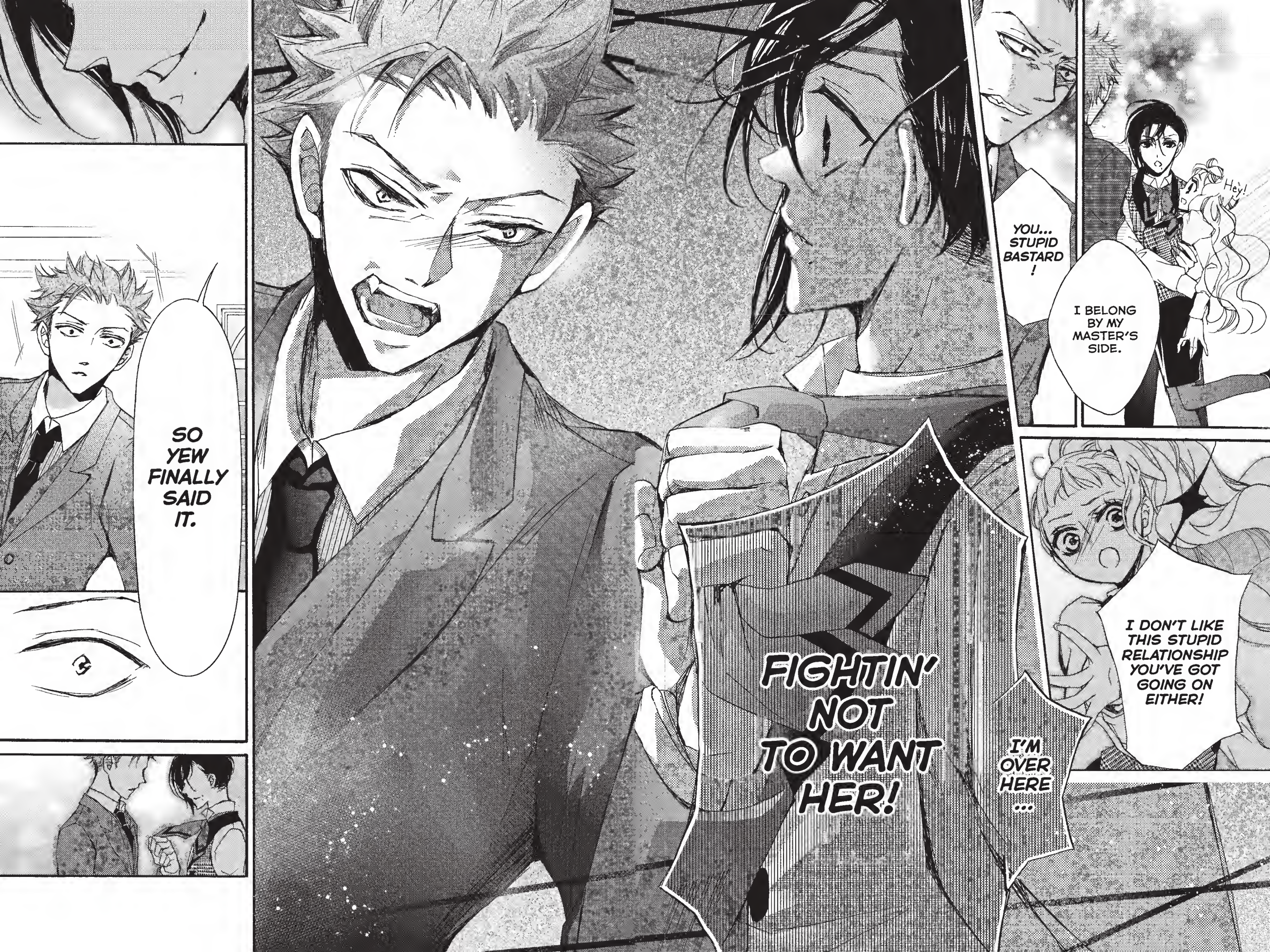

ANRI?
I CHANGED MY MIND. I'LL FEED HIM! ♪
HUH?
HANG ON!
ARGH! ワア
ARGH! ワア
ARGH! ワア
I KNEW I HEARD SOMETHING! IT'S THE NEXT CEO KUROGANE-SAMA AND HIS FRIENDS!
WOW, HOW RARE! I DIDN'T KNOW HE EVER MADE THAT EXPRESSION!
AHA HA HA!
WHAT ARE YOU, A LITTLE KID?!

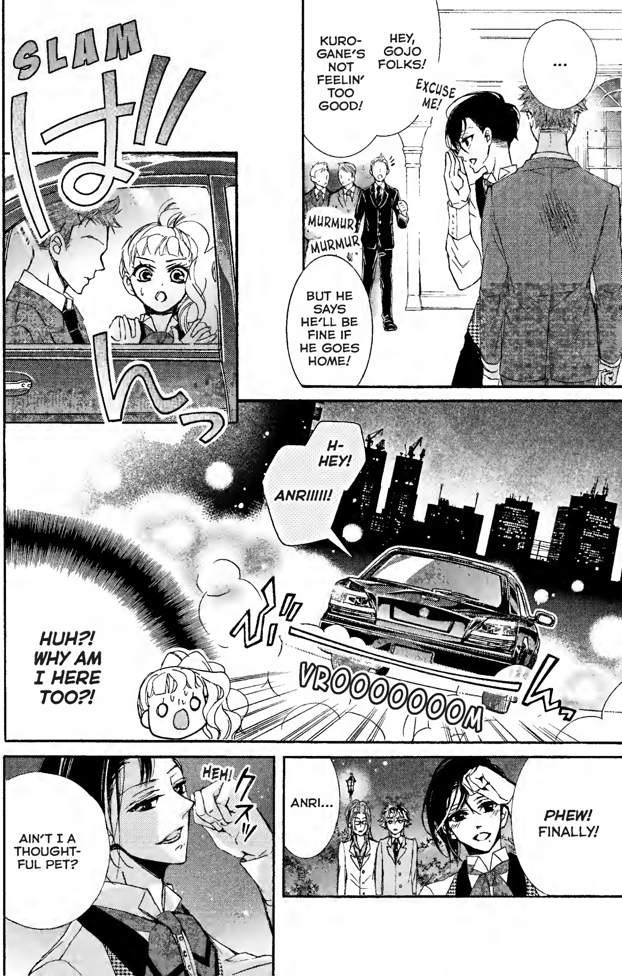

THEY MUST BE VERY GOOD FRIENDS!
GIGGLE!
FLAIL FLAIL
THERE AIN'T NO REASON TO BE SHY!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YEW THIS PANICKED SINCE THE FIRST TIME WE WENT TO PLAY IN THE GEISHAS' WAITING ROOM.
PFFFFFT!
DON'T BRING THAT UP NOW!
THEY SMELLED REALLY GOOD, DIDN'T THEY?
Gosh!
What adorable guests we have today.
GEISHAS...
THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN "PLAYING" LIKE THAT SINCE THEY WERE KIDS?
"WAIT, ANRI!"
"EVERYONE'S ALREADY YELLING AT US ALL THE TIME!"
"SO WHAT? I DON'T CARE 'BOUT THEIR STINKIN' RULES!"
YEW HAD FUN TOO, RIGHT?

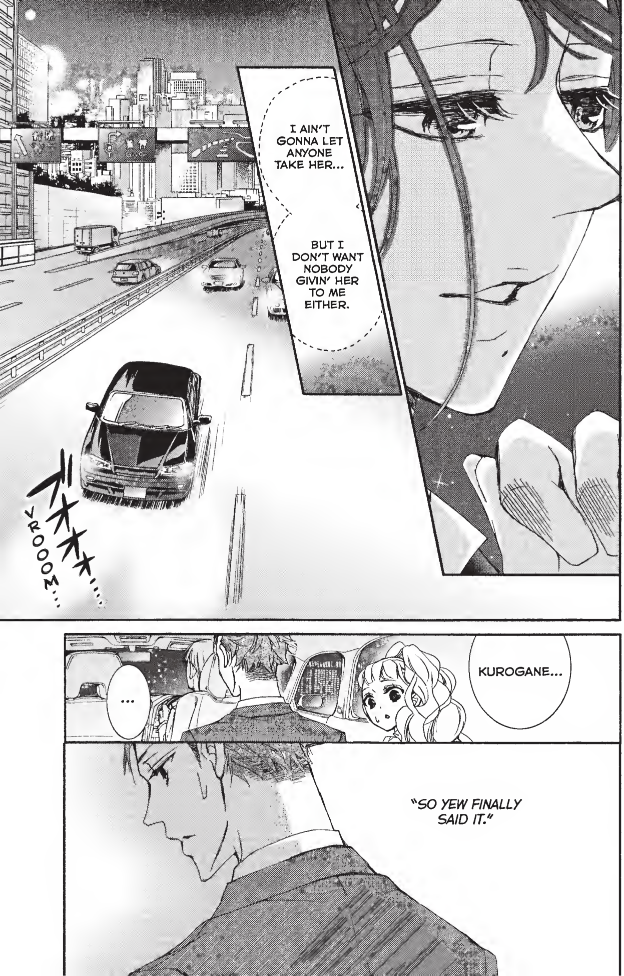

...
YEAH.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THAT CRAZY SIDE OF YOURS HAS SAVED ME OVER THE YEARS.
ZING きゅん
KURO-GANE!
TSK!
WHAP ビタン
YEOW!
...AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T STAND SEEING YOU LIKE THIS.
I HEAR YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BACK HOME EVEN ONCE SINCE THEN?

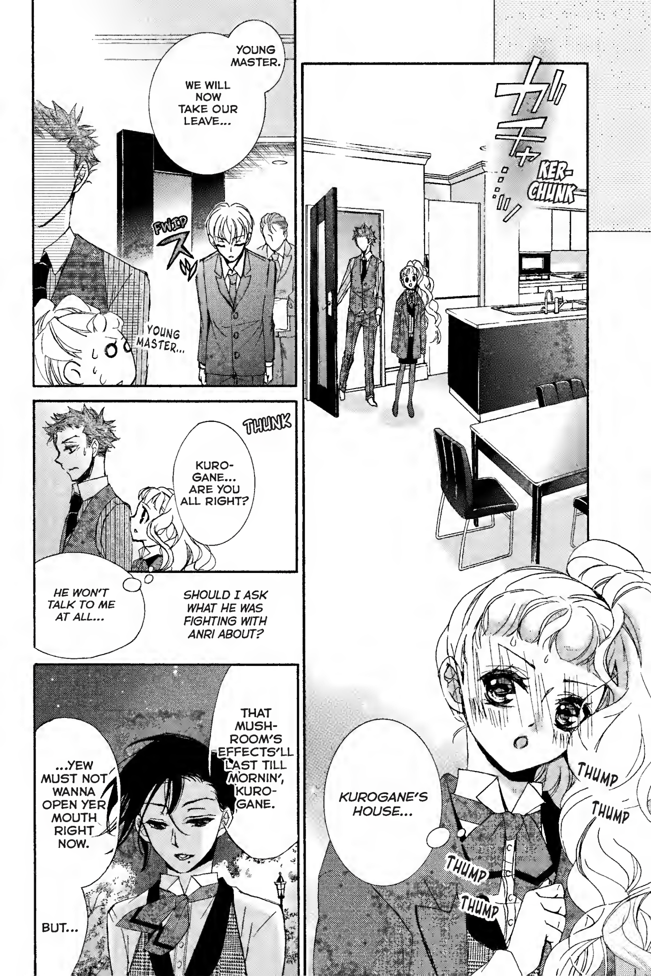

HUH?
JUST NOW...
KURO-GANE? WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YEW?
MY DAD TOLD ME YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HOME ONCE.
IS THAT TRUE, ANRI?
I KNEW THAT...
HE HASN'T... BEEN HOME?
BUT...
...
I THOUGHT ANRI HAD NOWHERE TO GO?
CHATTER CHATTER
ワイワイ
IF ANRI HASN'T TOLD YOU, I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING.
GRR!

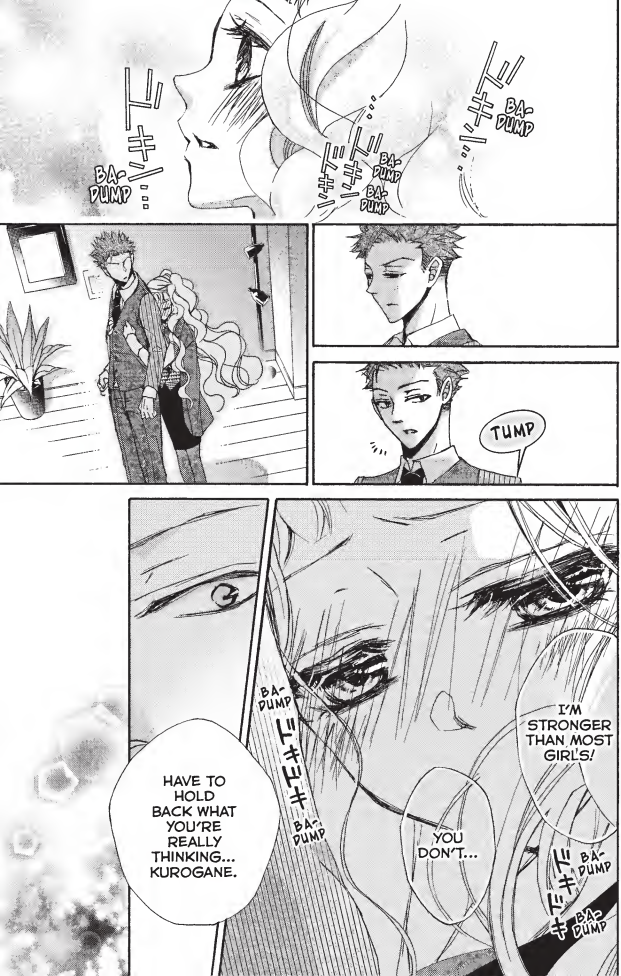

WHAT THE HECK ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT? NOW YER MAD? YER SO WEIRD, KUROGANE-SAN.
THEN ANSWER ME, ANRI.
HOW LONG'RE YOU GONNA KEEP DRIFTING AROUND LIKE A LOOSE BALLOON?
ザワ…!! MURMUR
ザワザワ MURMUR MURMUR
What the? Are they fighting?
No, no.
Just some intense kidding around.
HOW BAD DO YOU WANT ME TO WORRY ABOUT YOU?
WHO ASKED YEW TO WORRY ABOUT ME?
I'M NOT DRIFTIN' ANYWHERE ANYMORE.
'CAUSE NOW I'M TAIGA-CHAN'S PET.
Hey, Anri!
HUH?!
...I'M NOT GOIN' HOME...

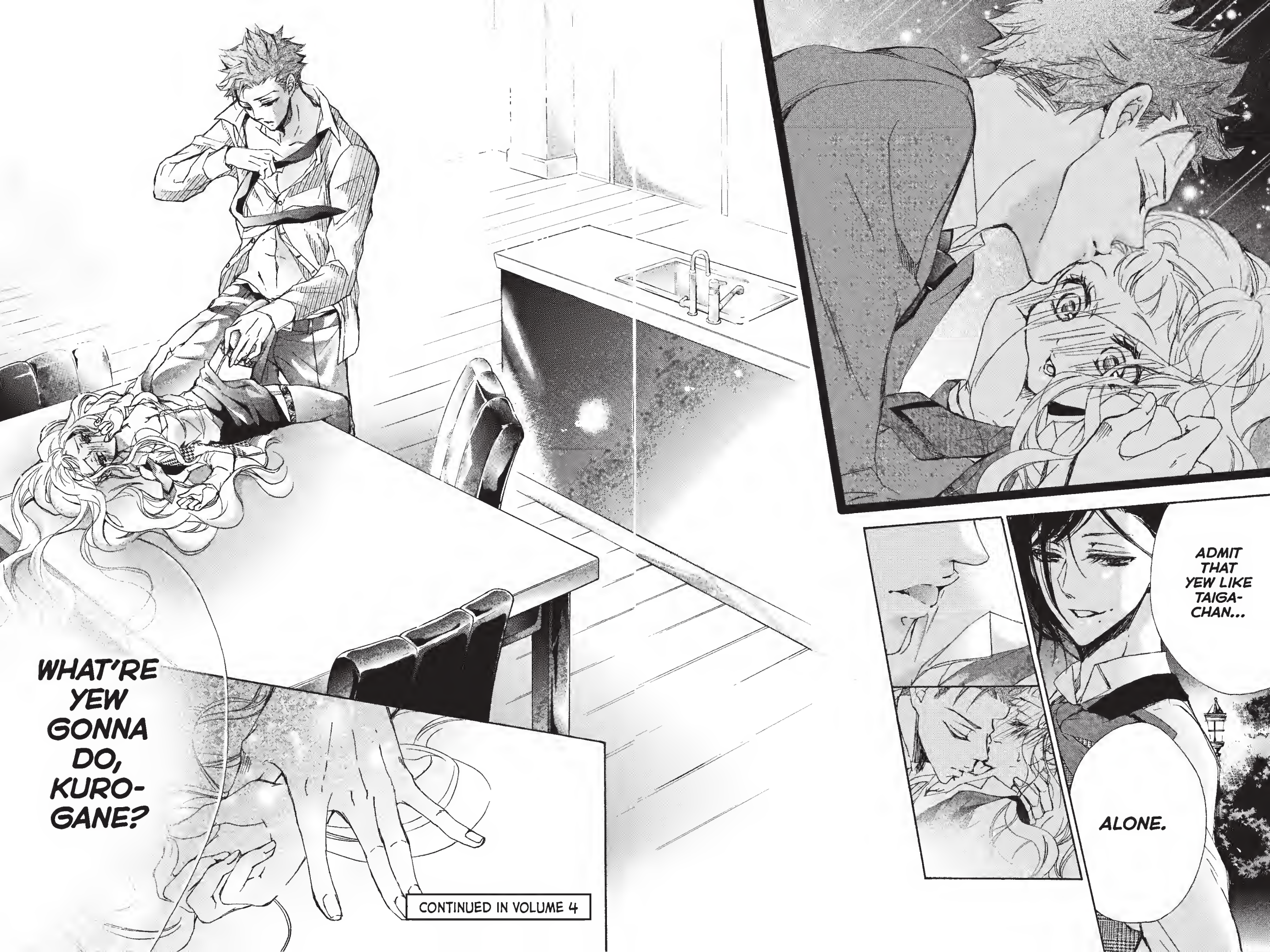

Hey!
I BELONG BY MY MASTER'S SIDE.
YOU... STUPID BASTARD!
I DON'T LIKE THIS STUPID RELATIONSHIP YOU'VE GOT GOING ON EITHER!
FIGHTIN' NOT TO WANT HER!
I'M OVER HERE...
SO YEW FINALLY SAID IT.


...
HEY, GOJO FOLKS!
KURO-GANE'S NOT FEELIN' TOO GOOD!
EXCUSE ME!
MURMUR
MURMUR
BUT HE SAYS HE'LL BE FINE IF HE GOES HOME!
SLAM
ばんっ
H-HEY!
ANRIIIIII!
VROOOOOOOM
HUH?! WHY AM I HERE TOO?!
PHEW! FINALLY!
ANRI...
HEH!
AIN'T I A THOUGHTFUL PET?


I AIN'T GONNA LET ANYONE TAKE HER...
BUT I DON'T WANT NOBODY GIVIN' HER TO ME EITHER.
ブオオオ…
VROOOM...
KUROGANE...
...
"SO YEW FINALLY SAID IT."


YOUNG MASTER.
WE WILL NOW TAKE OUR LEAVE...
FWIP
ス
YOUNG MASTER...
THUNK
KURO-GANE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HE WON'T TALK TO ME AT ALL...
SHOULD I ASK WHAT HE WAS FIGHTING WITH ANRI ABOUT?
THAT MUSH-ROOM'S EFFECTS'LL LAST TILL MORNIN', KURO-GANE.
...YEW MUST NOT WANNA OPEN YER MOUTH RIGHT NOW.
BUT...
ガチャ
KER-CHUNK
KUROGANE'S HOUSE...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP


ドキン…
BA-DUMP
ドキン…
BA-DUMP
ドキン…
BA-DUMP
ドキン…
BA-DUMP
TUMP
I'M STRONGER THAN MOST GIRLS!
ドキドキ
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
YOU DON'T…
HAVE TO HOLD BACK WHAT YOU'RE REALLY THINKING… KUROGANE.
ドキドキ
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

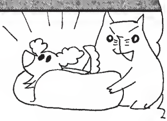

ADMIT THAT YEW LIKE TAIGA-CHAN...
ALONE.
WHAT'RE YEW GONNA DO, KURO-GANE?

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 4

Once again, hello there!

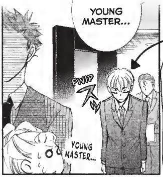
IT'S...

PEDORO TORIUMI!


Hot-dog!
2016

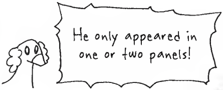
THANK YOU FOR READING "BLACK PANTHER AND SWEET SIXTEEN" THIS FAR!!

LITTLE BY LITTLE, WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT THE MEN...I THINK...HERE BY THE THIRD VOLUME. OUR MAIN ONES, ANRI, KUROGANE, SENA, AND MIKIHITO WILL BE TOUCHED ON IN THE MAIN STORY, SO...LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS ONE, WHO I DOUBT I'LL GET A CHANCE TO DISCUSS IF I DON'T DO IT NOW!!

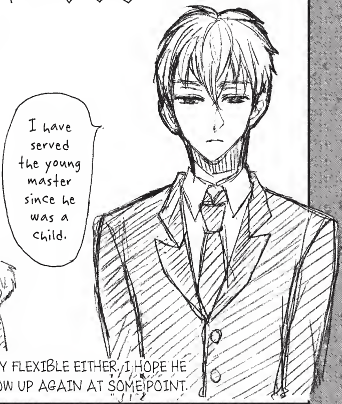

YOUNG MASTER...
FWIP
YOUNG MASTER...

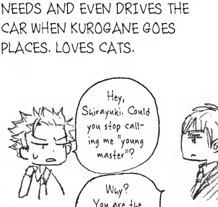
PAGE 146 OF CH. 12

THIS ONE!! IF I GOT A CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT HIM...

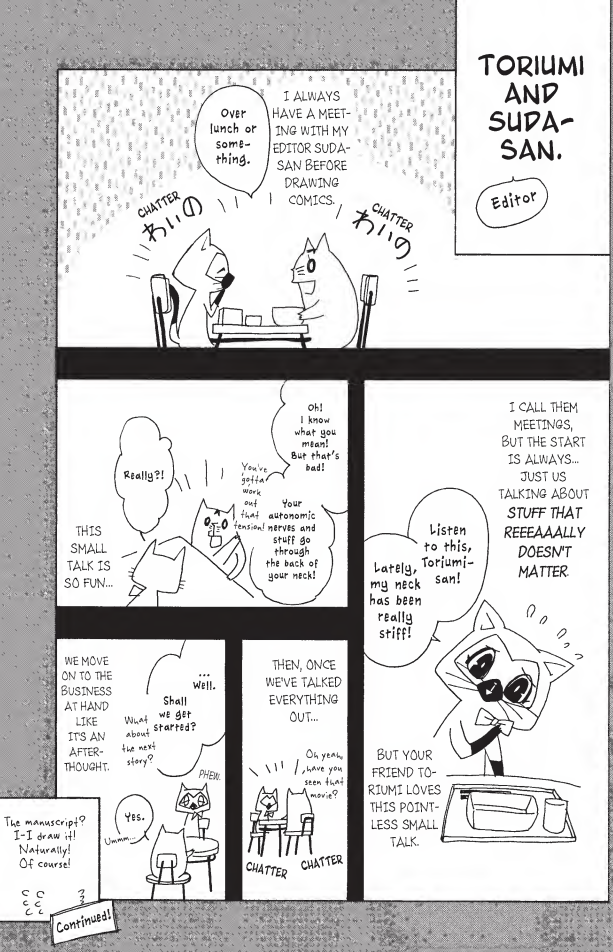

He only appeared in one or two panels!

HIS NAME IS MIKOTO SHIRAYUKI. THAT'S A FEMININE NAME, BUT HE'S A MAN. HE'S 28 AND APPARENTLY SINGLE. HANDLES KUROGANE'S MANY NEEDS AND EVEN DRIVES THE CAR WHEN KUROGANE GOES PLACES. LOVES CATS.

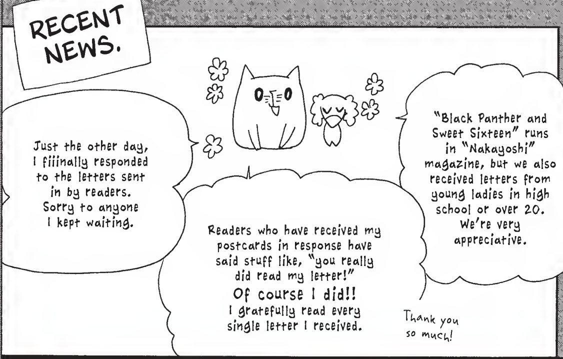

I have served the young master since he was a child.


Hey, Shirayuki. Could you stop calling me "young master"?
Why? You are the "young master," young master.

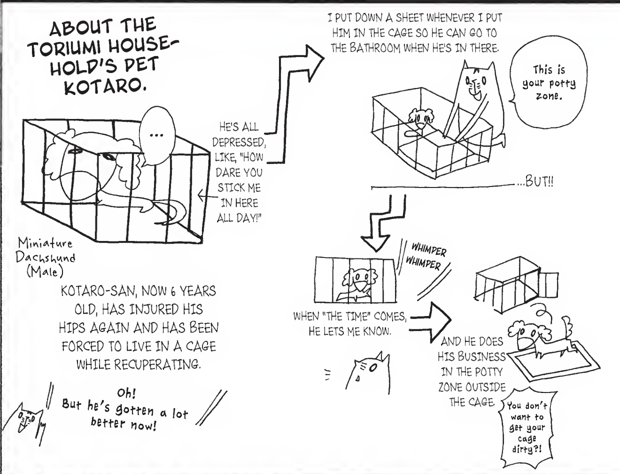
NOT VERY FLEXIBLE EITHER. I HOPE HE CAN SHOW UP AGAIN AT SOME POINT.


TORIUMI AND SUDA-SAN.
Editor
I ALWAYS HAVE A MEETING WITH MY EDITOR SUDA-SAN BEFORE DRAWING COMICS.
Over lunch or something.
CHATTER わいの
CHATTER わいの
I CALL THEM MEETINGS, BUT THE START IS ALWAYS... JUST US TALKING ABOUT *STUFF THAT REEEAAALLY DOESN'T MATTER.*
Listen to this, Toriumi-san!
Lately, my neck has been really stiff!
BUT YOUR FRIEND TORIUMI LOVES THIS POINTLESS SMALL TALK.
Oh! I know what you mean! But that's bad!
You've gotta work out that tension!
Your autonomic nerves and stuff go through the back of your neck!
Really?!
THIS SMALL TALK IS SO FUN...
THEN, ONCE WE'VE TALKED EVERYTHING OUT...
Oh yeah, have you seen that movie?
CHATTER
CHATTER
...Well.
Shall we get started?
What about the next story?
PHEW.
Yes.
Ummm...
WE MOVE ON TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND LIKE IT'S AN AFTERTHOUGHT.
The manuscript? I-I draw it! Naturally! Of course!
Continued!

RECENT NEWS.


Just the other day, I fiiinally responded to the letters sent in by readers. Sorry to anyone I kept waiting.
Readers who have received my postcards in response have said stuff like, "you really did read my letter!" Of course I did!! I gratefully read every single letter I received.
"Black Panther and Sweet Sixteen" runs in "Nakayoshi" magazine, but we also received letters from young ladies in high school or over 20. We're very appreciative.
Thank you so much!

ABOUT THE TORIUMI HOUSEHOLD'S PET KOTARO.


...
HE'S ALL DEPRESSED, LIKE, "HOW DARE YOU STICK ME IN HERE ALL DAY!"
Miniature Dachshund (Male)
KOTARO-SAN, NOW 6 YEARS OLD, HAS INJURED HIS HIPS AGAIN AND HAS BEEN FORCED TO LIVE IN A CAGE WHILE RECUPERATING.
Oh! But he's gotten a lot better now!
I PUT DOWN A SHEET WHENEVER I PUT HIM IN THE CAGE SO HE CAN GO TO THE BATHROOM WHEN HE'S IN THERE.
This is your potty zone.
...BUT!!
WHIMPER WHIMPER
WHEN "THE TIME" COMES, HE LETS ME KNOW.
AND HE DOES HIS BUSINESS IN THE POTTY ZONE OUTSIDE THE CAGE.
You don't want to get your cage dirty?!

SPECIAL★THANKS!!

MY PARENTS, UNCLE OSAMU
EDITOR: SUDA-SAMA
KAZUHA-SAN, IMAIMON, SHIMO-NYAN, TORA-SAN

EVERYONE INVOLVED IN
"BLACK PANTHER AND SWEET SIXTEEN"

AND LAST BUT DEFINITELY NOT LEAST
EVERYONE READING THIS COMIC!
THAT MEANS...

♥♡**YOU!**♡♥

TWITTER

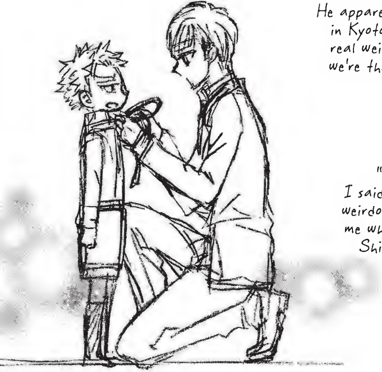
https://twitter.com/
Toriumi Pedoro

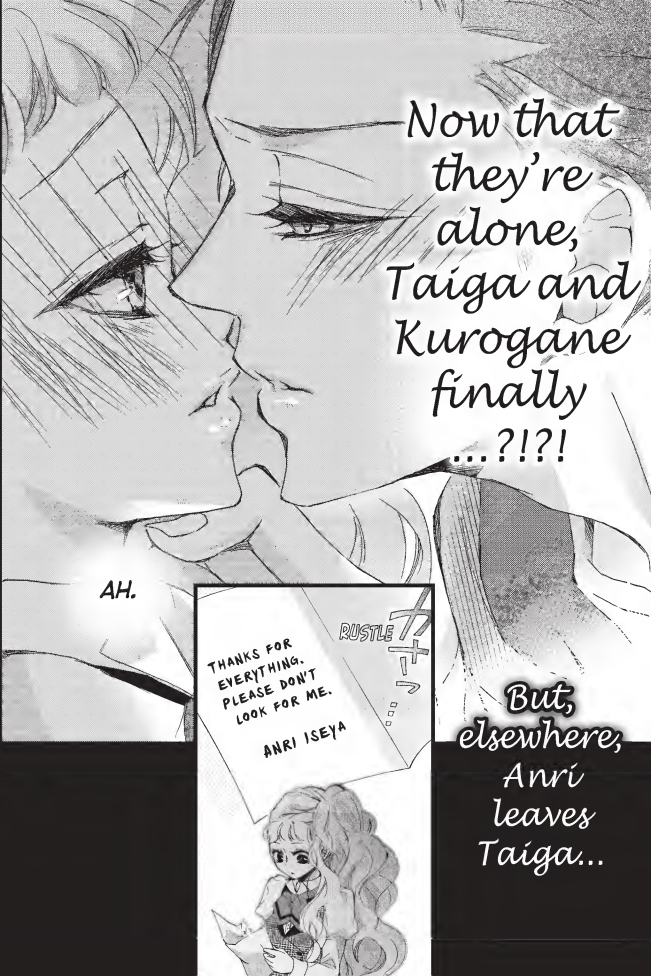
BLOG

http://pedolong.blog106.fc2.com

TOKYO AKASAKA POST OFFICE
P.O. BOX 91
NAKAYOSHI EDITING DEPARTMENT
107-8652
TO: PEDORO TORIUMI

If you have time, I'd love to hear your thoughts~


"What is the matter, young master?"
"I met a weirdo today. He apparently lives here in Kyoto, but he's a real weirdo. He said we're the same age."
"...So that's why you're in a bit of a good mood?"
"Huh? I said he was a weirdo. Listen to me when I talk, Shirayuki."



Now that they're alone, Taiga and Kurogane finally ...?!?!

AH.
RUSTLE
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING. PLEASE DON'T LOOK FOR ME.
ANRI ISEYA

But, elsewhere, Anri leaves Taiga...

WHAT ?!
TAIGA-CHAN.
WHO DO YEW LIKE MORE, ME OR KUROGANE?

This dangerous triangle just won't quit!

When she finally finds Anri, he embraces Taiga...

Black Panther and Sweet 16 4

Black Panther and Sweet 16 3

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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